

Muir Beauty (UC #D6N-72) Dried Plum/Prune Description (U.S. Plant Pat. No 15,547)

Muir Beauty is new dried plum cultivar developed within the University of California Dried Plum/Prune Cultivar Improvement Program for use by the dried fruit industry. Muir Beauty is an excellent dried plum that ripens earlier than both the UCD cultivar of Sutter and the commonly grown variety of Improved French. This earlier maturity will allow growers the opportunity to spread the time of harvest and maximize their drying efficiency. Muir Beauty is also the recommended pollinizer for the UCD plum cultivar Tulare Giant.



Muir Beauty fruit (D6N-72)

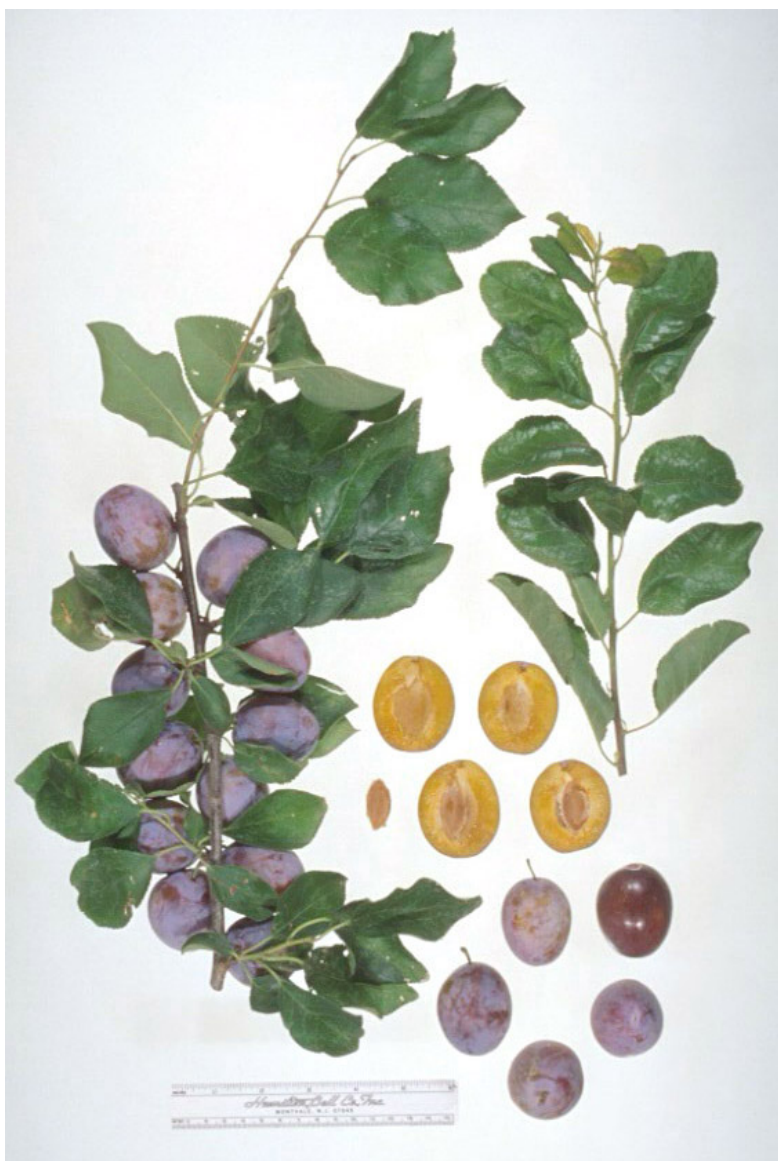
This dried plum cultivar was developed from a controlled pollination between the European plum cultivars of Improved French and Tulare Giant in the year 1992. It was selected in 1997 from the Davis seedling orchards and propagated in both advanced selection research orchards, Wolfskill and Kearney, in the following winter. Grower field tests have been established and evaluated in both the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. The cultivar Muir Beauty was patented under the name of D6N-72 and released in 2004.

The fruit of Muir Beauty matures in early August about 10 to 15 days before the industry standard Improved French when grown at the same location. The fruit is large, oval in shape, without a neck. The skin is a purple-rose color with a grayish medium thick waxy bloom. The fresh fruit flesh color ranges from a dark gold to a golden-orange. The fruit soluble solids range from 20-24 degrees Brix.

The dried fruit is larger than Improved French, shiny black in color with larger but fewer wrinkles than Improved French. The dried flesh retains the golden color of the fresh fruit. The pit of Muir Beauty is medium size and varies from semi-free to freestone. Limited pitting tests have resulted in easy pit removal. In taste tests, Muir Beauty is described to have a thick, meaty fruit texture with a pleasant well-balanced fruity flavor.

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The tree characteristics of Muir Beauty are similar to both Improved French and Sutter. The tree is a vigorous grower with an upright form and is a very productive regular bearer. Muir Beauty has been grown successfully on plum rootstocks, Marianna and Myrobalan. The leaves are moderately large in size, deep green in color and relatively shiny. The tree is more precocious than Improved French, flowering and fruiting at an early age. The fruit is born on one-year-old shoots and older spurs. The time of full bloom is 7-10 days before Improved French blooms. Muir Beauty bloom overlaps with the bloom of Tulare Giant very well. Muir Beauty is self pollinating and is able set a heavy crop without additional pollination. The fruit hangs well on the tree with no more than normal pre-harvest drop. A small mechanical tree-shaking trial removed all the fruit from the tree with no damage to fruiting spurs or tree structure.



Muir Beauty (D6N-72) fruit and foliage