Cultivar Selection Guide for Florida-Grown Pomegranates: Horticultural Traits [but, first, please see the Notes]. Prepared by Bill Castle [bcastle@ufl.edu], University of Florida.

### Selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USDA ID</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Color</th>
<th>Hardness</th>
<th>Flavor</th>
<th>Brite</th>
<th>General remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Fruit

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USDA ID</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Color</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Seed/Aril

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>USDA ID</th>
<th>Origin</th>
<th>Notes</th>
<th>Size</th>
<th>Size</th>
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### Notes

- The tabulated information is derived from observations taken over the years 2010-2016 on young plants generally about 2-8 years old. However, there is an emphasis on observations collected in 2015-16 from cooperator projects in the Dundee and Zolfo Springs areas and earlier observations from trials at Winter Haven.
- The information is not from. Because variability can always be expected when forming a crop like pomegranates, peel and aril color may vary depending on the weather (temperature, rainfall), but the cropping characteristics, fruit size and most of the other traits have proven to be reasonably consistent enough to be used to describe the cultivars as they grow in Florida. So, the answer to the question is: Reliable enough to be useful in comparing groups of cultivars, to some extent, individual cultivars. For example, to find pomegranates for fresh use, one could start by choosing that group of selections with soft seeds and then deciding which pomegranates to choose based on yield or other traits important to you. However, there certainly are pomegranate cultivars with distinctive and consistent characteristics like Vkusnyi, Christina and Girkans, which express themselves regardless of where the selections are grown in Florida.

### Cold hardiness

- In general, hard-seeded sweetflesh red varieties are thought to be the most cold hardy, i.e., their ability to withstand cold winter temperatures. Soft-seeded yellow ones are considered to be less tolerant. Placing the various pomegranate varieties into those categories is unroute. Like many other perennial tree crops, pomegranates, regardless of the type, seem to be vulnerable to winter cold as young plants (0-2 years old) and must be protected until early June. Also, as with many plants, the expression of cold hardiness has a great deal to do with the natural ability of a plant and its interaction with the particular weather conditions in the Fall before Winter.

### How reliable is the information?

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- [For photos on the pom name]
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2. **Fruit size.** The parts of pomegranate seeds are often confused. When the fruit is opened, the edible part is the seed. The seeds of many different plants are covered with a seed coat. In the case of the pom seed, the outer seed coat is a specialized fleshy or juicy structure called an aril. The "color" of the seed actually is located in the juice of the aril. Click [here](#) for a comparison of seed sizes.

3. **Juice.** As with the other traits, the comments represent a combination of experience; however, in this instance, the juice descriptions are mostly based on fruit harvested in late August-early September, 2015, from one trial located in Dundee. That is meaningful because for Florida, that harvest time was somewhat later than usual. Juice flavor might have been better than for fruit harvested earlier. There would likely be enhanced red color development.

4. **USDA ID.** In the U.S. National Clonal Germplasm Repository System, pomegranates are in a collection maintained at Davis, CA. The pomegranate accessions are identified by a DPUN number.

5. **Seed/aril.** These ratings are "Mostly," i.e., if one observed a number of Algoni trees over a period of years, the fruit would MOSTLY be small-to-medium sized. There would be a few small fruit and a few large ones, but most of the fruit would be medium sized. Furthermore, fruit size may be affected by crop size, i.e., the larger the crop, the smaller individual fruit size might be regardless of the cultivar. If that is true for Florida-grown pomegranates is unknown. Click [here](#) for a comparison of fruit sizes.

**Key to Symbols**

| Ex. | Excellent; H = High or Hard; Lt. = Light; L = Low; M = Medium; S = Small; Sl = Slight |