PRUNUS & DRUPES PLEASE...
PLUMS BELONG TO THE PRUNUS GENUS OF PLANTS AND ARE RELATIVES OF THE PEACH, APRICOT, NECTARINE AND ALMOND. ANY FRUIT THAT HAS A HARD STONE PIT THAT ENCLOSES ITS SEED IS CALLED A 'DRUPE'.

I THINK I HAVE A 'PLUM JOB'.

MEET JORA DHALIWAL, PLUM GROWER FOR BC TREE FRUITS.

Our family farm is in the Okanagan Valley. Why the Okanagan Valley?

With endless days of summer sun, pristine water for irrigation, along with rich, fertile soil, the Okanagan has a magical combination of conditions for growing the best fruit trees. That's why half of prune plums produced in Canada are grown in BC. We think they are some of the most delicious in the world.

Jora Dhaliwal, BC Tree Fruits

Fruit has been part of the Okanagan Valley since before anyone of us growers can remember. The indigenous people picked wild crab apples, strawberries, thimbleberries and pin cherries. When European settlers arrived in the early 1800's, they found a perfect produce paradise. Lucky for us many of them thought to bring fruit grafts in their covered wagons giving us a head start on the orchards we harvest today.

I came to the Okanagan in 1981 and like many before me decided this was the perfect place to realize my dream of becoming a fruit grower. First, I needed experience and knowledge of farming techniques, so for many years worked for other growers. In 1999 I was ready and purchased my own orchard in Kelowna. Our orchards have grown over the years and today along with prune plums, we harvest cherries, peaches, apricots, pears and apples.

BEHIND EVERY GREAT FRUIT IS A GREAT GROWER.

Long hours in the orchard doesn't leave much time for the business side, so many years ago a group of local growers joined together to form the **Okanagan Tree Fruit Cooperative.** Using strength in numbers, the co-op, provides expertise in promoting, technology, packaging, distribution and transportation. Now we have time to do what we do best, nurture our orchards to create the best produce possible. Today there are over 580 grower families in the BC Tree Fruits co-op.

What's my favourite part about being an orchardist? Working outdoors and the pride I feel when others, like you, enjoy my fruit.

aitc.ca/bc
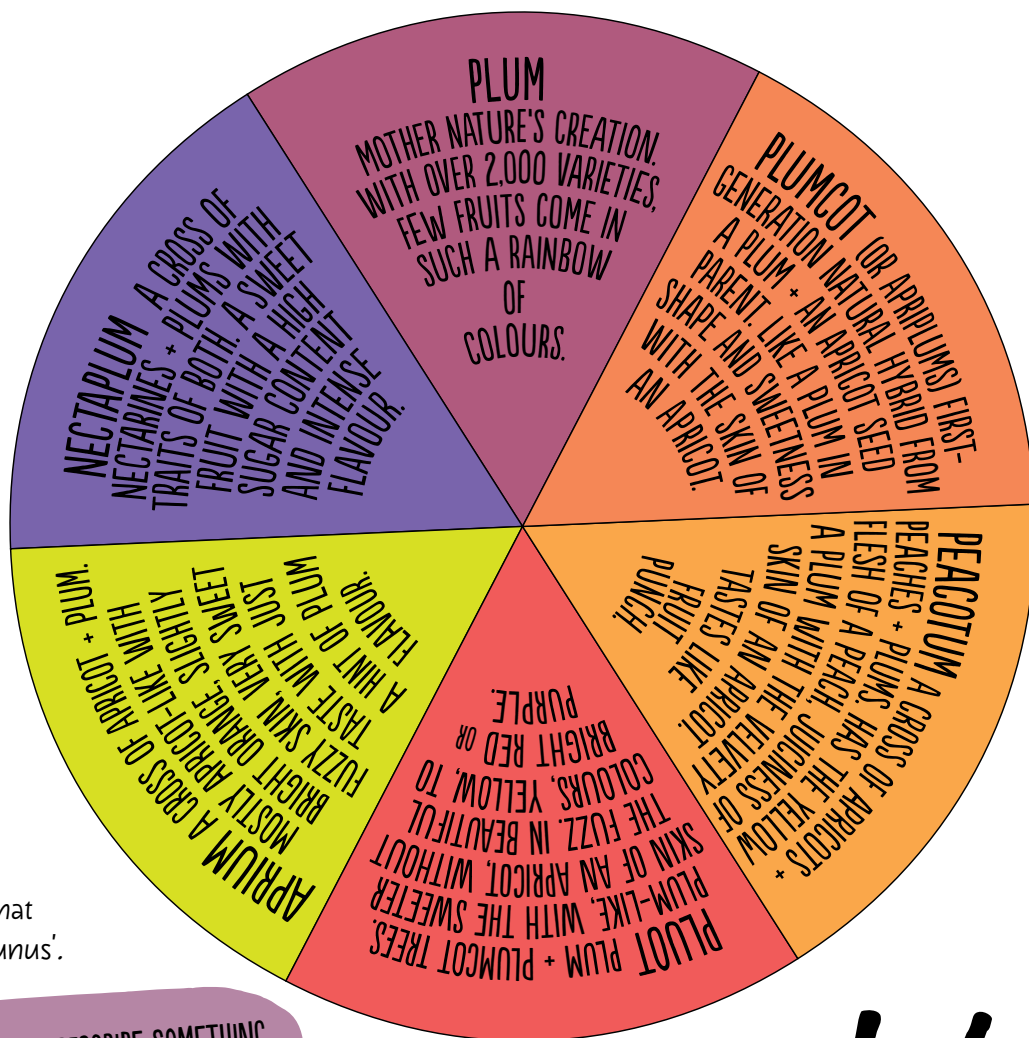
PLUM PERFECT

Take a plum and an apricot tree, put them together, and what do you get? Plum imposters in shades of yellow, green and purple, along with bright orange apricot look-alikes smudged with a peachy-red blush. These plum cousins, fruit grown from cross-pollination of 2 plants of the same species or 'genus' - are called 'hybrids'.

Fruit breeding is a natural process where breeders and growers 'play' bees, taking pollen from one selection of fruit and combining it with another. It can take many generations of plants to get the ideal fruit. It's a bit like mixing paint in a colour wheel...take a look at what growers have created from a parent 'prunus'.

PLUM MOTHER NATURE'S CREATION. WITH OVER 2,000 VARIETIES, FEW FRUITS COME IN SUCH A RAINBOW OF COLOURS.

PLUMCOT (OR APRIPLUMS) FIRST-GENERATION NATURAL HYBRID FROM A PLUM + AN APRICOT SEED PARENT. LIKE A PLUM IN SHAPE AND SWEETNESS WITH THE SKIN OF AN APRICOT.

PEACOTUM A CROSS OF APRICOTS + PEACHES + PLUMS HAS THE YELLOW FLESH OF A PEACH, JUICINESS OF A PLUM WITH THE VELVETY SKIN OF AN APRICOT. TASTES LIKE FRUIT PUNCH!

PLUOT PLUM + PLUMCOT TREES. PLUM-LIKE, WITH THE SWEETER SKIN OF AN APRICOT, WITHOUT THE FUZZ, IN BEAUTIFUL COLOURS, YELLOW, TO BRIGHT RED OR PURPLE.

APRIUM A CROSS OF APRICOT + PLUM. MOSTLY APRICOT-LIKE WITH SLIGHTLY FUZZY SKIN, VERY SWEET TASTE WITH JUST A HINT OF PLUM FLAVOUR.

NECTAPLUM A CROSS OF NECTARINES + PLUMS WITH TRAITS OF BOTH. A SWEET FRUIT WITH A HIGH SUGAR CONTENT AND INTENSE FLAVOUR.

PEOPLE OFTEN USE THE WORD 'PLUM' TO DESCRIBE SOMETHING GOOD. THAT MAKES SENSE – SINCE OKANAGAN PRUNE PLUMS ARE AS GOOD AS IT GETS.

MAP IT OUT...

ON YOUR **GROW BC MAP**, YOU WILL FIND MOST OF THE COMMERCIAL PLUM AND OTHER SOFT FRUIT GROWERS IN THE **Okanagan, Similkameen,** AND **Kootenay Valleys.** WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE LANDFORM OF THE OKANAGAN VALLEY?

- FIND THE **2 major lakes** THAT PROVIDE IRRIGATION FOR THESE TWO PLUM GROWING AREAS.

- FIND JORA DHALIWAL'S FAMILY FARM IN **Kelowna** ON YOUR GROW BC MAP.

- WHAT'S ANOTHER FRUIT CROP THAT THRIVES IN THE GROWING CONDITIONS OF THE PLATEAUS OF THE **Okanagan Valley?**

DO THE MATH...

A grower like Jora Dhaliwal can harvest up to 300 pounds of raw fruit *per growing season* from one healthy plum tree.

If his orchard has 12 rows of plum trees with 20 trees per row, can you estimate how many pounds of plums Mr. Dhaliwal could harvest this season?