

Washington Office of Superintendent of **PUBLIC INSTRUCTION**

Harvest of the Month PLUOTS

Nutrition Information

- High in Vitamin C, which helps boost the immune system, and Vitamin A, important for vision and skin health.
- Contain potassium, which aids in maintaining healthy blood pressure.
- Good source of dietary fiber, which supports digestive health.
- Rich in antioxidants.

Selection and Storage

- Look for pluots that are firm with a slight give when gently pressed.
- The skin should be smooth and free from blemishes.
- Store ripe pluots in the refrigerator for up to a week.
- To ripen hard plums, place them in a paper bag at room temperature for up to three days.

Fun Facts

- Called "stone fruits," because of the pit inside and an edible dusty coating that protects the fruit.
- Washington State is known for producing high-quality stone fruits, like pluots due to the sunshine and well-drained soil of Eastern Washington.
- Pluots are a hybrid fruit created by crossing plums and apricots developed by Floyd Zaiger in the 1980s. It is 60% plum and 40% apricot.
- There are over 25 varieties of pluots, including the Dapple Dandy, Flavor Grenade, and Splash.
- Some varieties are so sweet they taste like candy.
- Pluots are sometimes called "dinosaur eggs" due to their speckled skin.

OSPI - Harvest of the Month- Pluots - School Meals



Recipes

• <u>Telly's Tasty Plum Salsa - National CACFP Association</u> While there aren't many credible recipes available that incorporate pluots, it is great fresh, in grain-based deserts, jams, sauces, chutneys, and more. Pluots can easily be substituted in any recipe that calls for plums. You can craft or modify your own plum or pluot recipe; just ensure its credibility by utilizing the <u>USDA Recipe</u> <u>Analysis Workbook (RAW).</u>



Educational Resources

There are no current resources for Pluots. We are providing resources that feature plums since pluots are a hybrid.

- WSDA Plums Handout
- Seattle Public School and Public Health King County Washington Grown Harvest of the Month kit includes a <u>10-month calendar featuring Washington Grown foods</u> that are available from September – June; a Bulletin Board that you can use to rotate food <u>image cards</u>, and <u>Educator flyers</u> to highlight your harvest of the month.
- Harvest of the Month Educator Newsletter: Plums California Department of Public
 Health
- <u>Harvest of the Month Family Newsletter: Plums California Department of Public</u> <u>Health</u> – Also available in <u>Spanish</u> and <u>Simple Chinese</u>
- Plum Lesson Plan Healthy South Dakota
- Oklahoma Fruit of the Month: Plums Ag in the Classroom

For more ideas about what items you could feature as a Harvest of the month, visit <u>WSDA's</u> <u>Washington Grown Food & Recipe Kit</u> and <u>USDA's Seasonal Produce Guide</u>.