

## **Determination of chilling and heating requirements in commercial apricot cultivars**

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In this experiment the chilling and heating requirements of 5 commercial apricot (*prunus armenica L.*) cultivars, Nasiri, Ordobad, Ghorban-e-Marageh, Ghermez-e-Shahrood and Doroshte-Malayer were studied during the course of 1997-99 with a view on assessing their adaptability and time of blooming under different climatic conditions at Sahand Horticulture Research Station. Cut shoots cultivars were prepared and kept in growth chamber in 15 days intervals, during the dormant period from the middle summer up to late winter.

The results indicated that the cultivars had difference phases of dormancy during fall and winter, nevertheless they were blooming the same time. The cultivar `Ghorban-e-Marageh` with short dormancy had low chilling requirement and high heating requirement. The cultivars `Nasiri` and `Ordobad` had deep and long true dormancy with high chilling requirements. Comparison between almond and apricot shows that apricot has longer dormancy and high chilling requirement. Therefore this information must be used in breeding programs aimed on late blooming and assessing their adaptability.