The Introduction of two new late-blooming almond varieties.

A.Imani

Dept.of Horticultur,College of Agriculture , Tarbiat modarres University , Tehran.

Almond tree is a xerophyte species. Thus it is very suitable for planting in natural resources. There is high genetic variation of almoud population in Iran, due to its sexual propagation. Therefor , Iran can be considered as a gene pool for almond breeding.

Almond flowers open very early in spring thus they are always in danger to be damaged by frost. Reduction in frost injury is possible by selecting late -blooming varieties among almond population. Therefore, a research program was setup in Myianeh area in 1992 and continued to 1996. Phenological (flowering date and duration), morphological (chractristics of flower and fruit) and quality of kernels were recorded for each genotypes. Finally two superior varieties(Ali-Bala and A-2) were selected . Ali -Bala and A-2 are, not only very late-blooming varieties (15 to 20 days later than the others), but also have paper shell (ratio of kernel to shell was 65% to 70% i.e. Ali-Bala) and semipaper shell (45% to 50% i.e A-2). A-2 and Ali-Bala are found self-incompatible. However, they were inter-compatibile. Therefore, mixed plantation of them can provied good pollination situatin. Thus,mixed plantation of these varieties (Ali-Bala and A-2) is recommended in areas in which , almond blossom are usually injured by temperature below freezing point.

Hybridization was taken place by employing these important genetors and progenies are under evaluation.