

# VERITABLE VEGETABLE'S PRODUCE NOTES

## PLUOTS and PLUMCOTS

*Where do these funny fruits come from?*

Are they from Disneyland or outer space? Not! Plutos and plumcots are what they sound like: plum-apricots. Plums and apricots are closely related- they are both members of the Rose family and the Prunus genus- which makes it easy for plant breeders to interbreed the two using traditional plant breeding techniques. Floyd Zaiger, one of the most creative and prolific fruit breeders in California history, bred the first plumcots. Besides plumcots and pluots, Floyd is renown for his development of many varieties of nectarines and peaches. Some growers and consumers find pluots and plumcots to be the best stone fruit they've ever tasted. They certainly are a tasty novelty and this year's crop is shaping up better than any we've seen before. The Flavorella pluot harvest started the season. Still to come are the Flavor Rich, Flavor Rosa, Flavor Bell, Dapple Dandy, Dapple Dan, Plum Parfait and more. Keep a look out for availability on these throughout the summer.

### **More Organic Farmers Needed!**

Organic agriculture is becoming increasingly popular as more growers shift towards organic and sustainable farming techniques. Yet, the growers who continue to use pesticides are using more of them than ever before. In 1995, for instance, there was an all time high of 2.3 billion pounds of pesticides used in the US. Of this, 2.3 billion pounds were used on farms. A lot of that material never even goes where its intended. As little as 1/10 of 1% of an applied pesticide reaches its target pest.

*This information is from the Firman E. Bauer Report, Rutgers University*