



**Be Organic Ltd**

### The Vic Plum

The origins of the Victoria plum are not exactly known. It is reputed to have been found in a garden in Alderton, Sussex, by a nurseryman call *Denyer* who originally named it "*Sharp's Emperor*" however history does not record there was ever a Sussex village called Alderton. Most likely is that the plum was from the "Suffolk" village of Alderton where coincidentally lived the Gage family who had bred many plums.

In 1837 *Denyer* changed his plums name to "*Denyer's Victoria*" which was the same year that Queen Victoria began her long reign as queen of England. Seven years later in 1844 it was introduced into Sweden where it became incredibly popular as a commercial variety, eventually finding its way back to our own orchards for reasons easily understood.

The Victoria plum is oval in shape with a shallow suture. The fruits start off as green turning to an orange / red colour and then finally a purple / dark red. The significance of the colour change from orange / red to purple / dark red is important because the Victoria plum is both a cooker and an eating variety. When the colour is orange / red the plums are at their best for cooking. They have good acidity and texture which is ideal for pies, jams and preserves. When cooked this plum variety

breaks down easily with a full plum taste with an almond scent in the background.



The tree is quite hardy and grows strongly but is not very large. It flowers medium-early and is self-fertile and therefore does not require a pollination companion. It is rarely attacked by diseases, but the fruit is by mould. Flowers must be thinned heavily for the fruits to reach full development. The tree is an immense bearer and ought to find a place in every garden however, small. . Ripening time is from late August to late September. It is a good table and household fruit.