



# 2013 Promising Plant

## *Mespilus germanica* 'Marron'

### Promising Qualities

- ❖ Highly productive
- ❖ Large, flavorful fruit
- ❖ Naturally compact

#### **FAMILY**

Rosaceae

#### **GENUS**

*Mespilus*

#### **SPECIFIC EPITHET**

*germanica*

#### **CULTIVAR**

'Marron'

#### **SYNONYM**

*Pyrus germanica*

#### **COMMON NAME**

Medlar

#### **LEAVES**

Large, bright waxy green

#### **FLOWER COLOR**

White, fragrant

#### **BLOOM PERIOD**

May, fruit in very late fall

#### **PLANT TYPE**

Deciduous tree

#### **PROPAGATION**

Grafted cutting on rootstock of genetically close relative

#### **USE**

Ornamental, human food, medicinal (folklore), wood crafts

#### **HEIGHT/WIDTH**

10 feet tall

#### **LIGHT**

Full to half-day sun

#### **SOIL**

Most well-drained soils

#### **WATER**

Moist, but well-drained

#### **HABIT**

Small, attractive tree

#### **HARDINESS**

Survives to -25°F  
(Zones 4-9)

Medlars (*Mespilus germanica*) are attractive, small, deciduous, self-fertile trees which have been popular in Europe since the Middle Ages. Because the fruit ripens so late in the season (actually needs cold to do so), they have been a source of human food for centuries.

Medlars are native to temperate Asia and east and south-eastern Europe. They are naturalized elsewhere and also cultivated. Seedlings are quite variable, so cultivars are usually grafted onto hawthorne, quince, or pear.

Medlars do well in pots. They are slow growing but adapt to most well-drained soils, can tolerate strong winds, but not maritime exposure.

Bright waxy green leaves turn blazing yellow in fall and then to a spectacular red.

Fragrant white flowers in May produce fruits which ripen in winter. Medlars grow from Zones 4 to 9 but require some near-freezing temperatures to set fruit. Ripe fruits have a custard or spiced applesauce flavor.

Medlar leaves have been used medicinally, and the hard wood has provided walking sticks and spear points.

The 'Marron' cultivar is highly productive, with large flavorful fruit, and is naturally compact, growing to about 10'.

### Where can I find this plant?

One Green World

[www.onegreenworld.com](http://www.onegreenworld.com)

Raintree Nursery

[www.raintreenursery.com](http://www.raintreenursery.com)



Photos: ewKennel

The Herb Society of America

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Kirtland, OH 44094

