



General information about plums

Over 90% of cultivated varieties come from the species of house plum. (*Prunus domestica* L.) . There is a great variety of forms within the species, which are called botanic varieties and sub-species by botanists. They include greengages, round plums, egg plums, oval plums, mirabelle plums, date plums, Damascus plums, semi-purple plums and purple plums. In the past the purple plum was the most widely cultivated plum in Poland.

The etymology of the word "purple plum" is not precisely known. One cannot find information on the literature on plum varieties, among others in the "Pomologia" by Prof. Rejman (1994). The beginnings of commercial cultivation of plums in our country date back to the end of the 17th century. House plums, including their main representative,

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the purple plum, was introduced to Poland from the Balkan countries. Migration of Hungarians to the Sub Carpathian regions became the main source of its popularity. The Polish name "węgierka" (purple plum) owns its origin probably to the Hungarian ethnic group of Walusks, who once inhabited the mountain regions of Poland. The type of plum of this tiny fruit was easily propagated from root shoots from beneath trees, as well as from seeds. The seedlings almost exactly resembled the characteristics of the mother plant. Therefore, before the Second World War, Poland was an important producer of purple plums. The basic characteristics of the purple plum is that its pulp is easily separated from its stone.