

Fruit Trees

As winter sets in and things become dormant we always have a short window in January - Mid-March to plant bare-root stock. We will be receiving lots of fruit bare-root and containerized trees. Here we have compiled some info that will help you get started!

Important Note Regarding Plant Varieties and Inventory:

While we have provided a list of expected plant varieties, please bear in mind that inventory levels are subject to change. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee that we will have all of the varieties in stock at all times.

Additionally, some varieties may be available in both bare-root and containerized forms, while others may only be available in one form or the other.

Choosing Fruit Trees Based on Chill Hours

Consider the following when selecting fruit trees for your garden:

1. Chill Requirement: Chill hours are the hours we receive below 45 degrees F. There are two different methods to calculate chill hours, but what matters is that some years we get plenty of chill hours, while others we do not.
2. Mid Chill Requirement: Opt for a tree with a mid chill requirement (between 400-600) if you're not planning on planting many trees.
3. Different Chill Requirements: If you're planting a decent amount of trees, consider buying trees with varying chill requirements to ensure that you will always (hopefully) get fruit, regardless of the year.

Choosing Fruit Trees Based on Ripening Season

Fruit trees typically start ripening in May, with some ripening in June, July, and even as late as August. While it may not seem significant, the ripening season plays an important role in determining what you want in the long run. If you have limited space and just want one or two trees, it may not matter much. But if you think about it, you may not want to wait until August to harvest your fruit, especially when your tree needs extra attention during the harshest season of the year. Similarly, if you plan to build an orchard, it may not be beneficial to have all of your trees ripening at the exact same time. Ultimately, it is up to you to decide what suits your needs best, but considering the ripening season can be helpful in making the right decision.

Choosing Fruit Trees Based on Pollination Requirements

Another essential factor in choosing different varieties is that some fruit trees require a pollinator, on top of that some do best with a specific pollinator. Even the varieties that are self pollinating will produce more abundant crops if they have another tree to pollinate with so it is best in most cases to plant in pairs if possible.

Peaches:

Peaches do great in central Texas in fact, they are one of the largest fruit crops grown in Texas. Peaches like a well draining soil, an ideal soil composition would be sandy loam with an underlayer of red clay with a pH between 6 - 7. That being said improvement can be done if you do not have the ideal soil type, just keep in mind that drainage is essential. It's worth noting that all peach varieties we offer are self-pollinating, meaning that only one tree is required to produce fruit. However, planting multiple trees can result in heavier crops.

| Variety | Chill Requirement | Notes |
|------------------|-------------------|---|
| Earligrande | 300 | Ripens in May, semi freestone. |
| Florida King | 300 | Ripens late May, clingstone. |
| June Gold | 450 | Ripens early June, clingstone, large fruit with great flavor. |
| La Feliciana | 400-500 | Ripens mid July, flavorful yellow freestone. |
| Belle of Georgia | 800 | Ripens late August, delicious white flesh freestone. |
| Loring | 800 | Ripens mid August, freestone great for canning. |
| Red Baron | 250 | Ripens mid July - mid August, Beautiful double red blossoms and large yellow freestone fruit. |
| Rio Grande | 400 | Ripens in May, great for hot and dry climates, freestone |
| Sam Houston | 500 | Ripens late June, developed by Texas A&M, freestone with small pit. |
| Sun Prince | 750 | Ripens mid season, good for canning or eating fresh, freestone. |
| Tex King | 400 - 450 | Ripens mid June, developed by Texas A&M, large freestone. |
| Tex Prince | 500 - 550 | Ripens mid June, developed by Texas A&M, large freestone. |
| Tex Royal | 600 | Ripens early June, large yellow freestone. |

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| Tex Star | 450 | Ripens early July, developed by Texas A&M, heavy bearing semi clingstone. |
| Desert Gold | 250 | Ripens in May, heavy bearing, medium sized, semi freestone. |
| Tropic Snow | 200 | Ripens in May, developed in a partnership between the University of Florida and Texas A&M, white freestone. |
| La Festival | 450 | Ripens mid summer, freestone |

Plums

If you're planning to add to your backyard orchard, consider including plum trees. Like peaches, they thrive in well-drained soil, particularly sandy loam with a pH between 6 and 7. While most of the plum varieties we carry are self-pollinating, some require a pollinator. Be sure to keep this in mind when selecting your trees.

| Variety | Chill Requirement | Notes |
|----------------|--------------------------|--|
| Methley | 250 | Ripens late May - early June, purple skin with red flesh, self pollinating as well as a good pollinator for other varieties. |
| Santa Rosa | 400 | Ripens late June, large purple skin with amber flesh, self pollinating. |
| Au Rosa | 200 - 400 | Ripens early, highly disease resistant, red skin with yellow flesh, self pollinating |
| Bruce | 500 | Ripens early June, red plum that needs a pollinator (Methley is recommended but will also pollinate with Santa Rosa & Morris). |
| Morris | 650 | Ripens early June, large red fruit with red flesh, needs pollinator (Methley or Santa Rosa). |
| Burbank | 400 | Ripens mid season, red blush skin, yellow flesh, needs pollinator (Methley or Santa Rosa). |

Apples

Apples thrive in well drained soils with a pH ranging from 6.5 to 7. Most will produce more abundantly with a pollinator even if it is considered to be self fruitful. When selecting apples, choose those with similar chill hours to ensure their blooming cycles coincide.

| Variety | Chill Requirements | Notes |
|-------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Anna | 200 - 300 | Ripens June - July, blush red skin, staple in our area, young bearer, self pollinated but will produce more with another (Dorrsett recommended). |
| Dorrsett | 100 - 300 | Ripens mid season, yellow/green skin with sweet flavor, semi-self fruitful (Dorrsett, Ein Sheimer recommended pollinators) |
| Ein Sheimer | 340 | Ripens mid season, golden yellow skin with sweet flavor, great for hot dry climates, self pollinating. |
| Granny Smith | 600 | Ripens late season, excellent for baking and keeping, crisp, tart, large green apple. Self pollinating |
| Gala | 500 | Ripens late season, crisp sweet blush red apple, self pollinating. |
| Pink Lady | 400 - 500 | Ripens late season, Perfect balance between sweet and tart, semi-self fruitful (Yellow Delicious recommend). |
| Mollies Delicious | 400 - 500 | Ripens late season, large crisp and sweet apple, yellow skin with red blush, requires pollinator (Granny smith, Yellow Delicious, or Honeycrisp recommended). |
| Yellow Delicious | 600-700 | Ripens late season, Great pollinator for other apples. Fruit is crisp and delicious! |

Pears

Pears are one of the most versatile fruits in Texas and can be grown in most soil types with ease. Unlike most other fruit pear trees will tolerate heavier soils with less drainage. Take note that cotton root rot is more prominent in heavy alkaline soils

| Variety | Chill Requirements | Notes |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|
| Perdue | 200 | Ripen Early August, juicy sweet fruit with low grit content, self pollinating. |
| Kieffer | 400 | Ripens October, firm crisp flesh, great for baking and canning, self pollinating |
| Moonglow | 500 | Ripens August, soft juicy flesh that is nearly free of grit, requires a pollinator but is a great pollinator for other varieties also. |
| Monterrey | 300 | Ripens August, large round pear with Smooth flesh with crisp, sweet flavor. Vigorous low-chill tree from Monterrey, Mexico, self-fruitful. |
| 20th Century | 400 | Ripens August, crisp Asian pear with sweet flavor, self pollinating but will produce heavier crops with other Asian pears as pollinators. |
| Hosui | 450 | Ripens August, this Asian pear boast in its superb flavor, needs a pollinator |
| Fan-Stil | 500 | Ripens August, most resistant to fire blight, sweet crisp pear that can be eaten fresh, self pollinating |
| Florida Home | 400 | Ripens July, good quality pear from Florida, semi-self-fruitful |
| Ayers | 350 | Ripens August, high sugar content delicious pear, smaller sized tree, self pollinating. |
| Orient | 300 | Ripens August, not to be confused as an Asian variety, large round sweet fruit, needs a pollinator. |
| Pineapple | 150 | Ripens August, great pollinator for other varieties, has a pineapple-like flavor, self pollinating. |

Apricot

Apricots thrive in a rich well-drained soil that is slightly alkaline. When planting make sure to add plenty of compost and improve drainage if needed.

| Variety | Chill Requirements | Notes |
|----------------|---------------------------|--|
| Blenheim | 300-500 | Ripens late season, delicious flavorful fruit. Freestone and self pollinating. |
| Royal | 400-500 | Ripens June - July, great for fresh eating as well as canning etc. Freestone and self pollinating. |
| Moorpark | 600-700 | Ripens July, favorite for eating fresh, freestone, and self pollinating. |
| Gold Kist | 300 | Ripens early season, heavy bearer and great for all uses. Freestone and self pollinating. |
| Katy | 200-300 | Ripens mid season, great for all uses. Freestone and self pollinating. |

Persimmon

Persimmons are widely adaptable to most soil types and can tolerate heavy clay to sand. They do best in a loamy mixture that's slightly acidic but with the right care and amendments they can grow just about anywhere.

Non-astringent persimmons can be eaten fresh right from the tree and are crisp like an apple.

Astringent persimmons are best picked and ripened for a few days until soft and nearly mushy before they are sweet enough to eat. They are the sweetest: richer and juicier than the non-astringents.

Astringents are sweet like maple syrup when ripe, and quite interesting as a dried delicacy.

Non-astringents are a more mellow sweet like cantaloupe or sugarcane.

| Variety | Astringent/Non-Astringent | Notes |
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| Fuyu | Non-Astringent | Ripens November, medium size, flat shape, still crunchy when ripe |
| Eureka | Astringent | Ripens November, flat, reddish, medium sized fruit. |
| Hachiya | Astringent | Ripens November, large cone shaped, orange-red skin; good producer. |
| Tani-Nashi | Astringent | Ripens October, orange, cone-shaped, sometimes seedless. |

Pecans

Pecans are a very rewarding long-term tree to have. While they are slow growing they have a very long lifespan and do well in most soils.

Pecans are pollinated by wind therefore you must have a Protandrous(1) variety and a Protogynous(2) variety within a quarter mile radius.

Protandrous(1): Pollen sheds prior to Stigma Receptivity.

Protogynous(2): Stigma receptive prior to pollen shedding.

| Variety: | Protandrous/Protogynous | Notes: |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Caddo | (1) Protandrous | Highly productive pecan variety. Nuts are smaller in size but have excellent kernel quality. Bears well annually. Strong grower and good scab resistance. |
| Candy | (2) Protogynous | 'Candy' trees are extremely attractive, leafing out quickly in the spring and producing a very full and lush canopy. 'Candy' is an extremely precocious and prolific cultivar. Small kernel |
| Choctaw | (2) Protogynous | High oil content, 60% kernel. Thin, large, and attractive hull. Well adapted papershell pecan. |
| Desirable | (1) Protandrous | One of the larger pecans, bears early and is a heavy producer. Disease resistant papershell pecan. |
| Kanza | (2) Protogynous | Compact, easily shelled nuts, outstanding flavor. Pollinate with Pawnee |

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| Kiowa | (2) Protogynous | Large and oblong nut. Takes 45-50 to make a pound. Bears heavy and early. Excellent quality papershell pecan. |
| Oconee | (1) Protandrous | Large nut, 59% kernel. Disease resistant papershell pecan. |
| Pawnee | (1) Protandrous | Large nut, high kernel percentage, and early nut maturity. Also papershell. |