



FRUITS

FOR OKLAHOMA

RECOMMENDED VARIETIES
PLANTING SUGGESTIONS
MULTIPLE FRUIT TREES
DWARF FRUIT TREES



apples

strawberries

nectarines

peaches

cherries

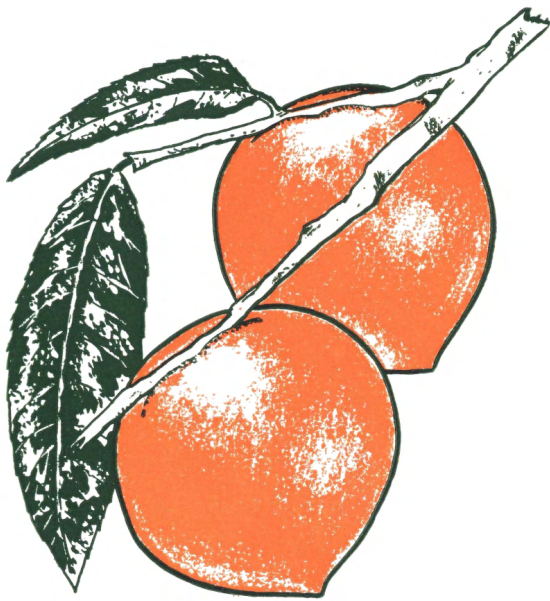
blackberries

plums

pears

grapes

other fruits



FRUITS for Oklahoma

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There is a need for more and better fruit production in Oklahoma. A small home orchard or a few trees in the back yard properly cared for can be a source of pleasure as well as fit a food production need. One-half acre or less planted to adapted varieties of the best kinds of fruit should be more than adequate in furnishing fruits for the average family. In addition to selecting the best varieties, the following practices—cultivation, fertilizing, pruning and spraying—are essential. It has been successfully demonstrated that many sections of Oklahoma are well adapted to fruit production, not only for home planting, but for commercial production.

SOILS

Deep, sandy soils are usually best, if clay and subsoil areas drain well. Avoid poorly drained soil. Observe native trees growing in the area to determine drainage conditions. On small areas, the soil may be conditioned to fit the need of the fruits to be grown.

SPACING

Plant apple and pear trees 35 to 40 feet apart; peaches and apricots, 25 to 30 feet; plums, 20 to 25 feet; grapes, 10 x 10 feet; and blackberries, 4 x 10 feet. Dwarf fruits are usually spaced about one-half the distance required for standard trees.

SIZE

Plan the planting to fit the area involved and the family needs, unless you are growing fruit commercially. The larger the planting, the more time and equipment will be required to provide adequate care. A few trees well cared for will produce more and better fruit than a larger, neglected planting.

SITE

Select the best site available for planting fruit trees. The site should provide good air drainage and should avoid low areas or frost pockets. Hills, slopes or elevated areas are better suited for most fruit plantings.

SETTING

Set the tree about the same depth in the soil as it grew in the nursery row. Trim off broken roots, but avoid excess pruning. Place top soil around the tree roots and firm the soil to exclude air. Settle the soil with water. Leave a small basin one to two inches deep around the tree to aid when watering. Prune back about one-third of the tree top and branches. Wrap the trunk from the soil up to the first branches (or 18 inches above the ground) to prevent the trunk from sun scale, rodent injury, insect damage, and from drying out.

SUMMER CARE

Cultivate around the trees if possible, or mulch for a short distance around the tree to conserve moisture and fertility and to remove competition from other plants. Spray plants to protect foliage and fruit, and to protect the trees from borers.

Detailed information on how to grow quality fruit, including solutions to such problems as soils, fertility, pruning and pest control can be secured at the County Agent's office.

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Selected Varieties for Oklahoma

Select dependable early maturing varieties for the home plantings. Many of the new varieties of fruit are superior in both quality and production to some of the standard varieties. It is best to select more than one tree of each kind of fruit in order to secure a better fruit set.

The varieties listed below are named in order of ripening, early to late. Space does not permit listing many other varieties that are satisfactory.

APPLES

VERY EARLY OR JUNE APPLES

Lodi—early, yellow, productive, good for apple sauce, frequently used for canning, good early apple for commercial planting. Ripens in June-July.

SUMMER

Summer Champion—large, red, smooth, firm, juicy apple, heavy producer, ripens in early August. Trees begin bearing fruit at an early age.

EARLY FALL

Jonathan (Red sports preferable) (Black Jon, Jonared)—red, attractive, high quality cooking or eating; ripens in August and September.

FALL

Delicious (Red sports preferable) (Starking, Richared, Double Red Delicious)—large, red, attractive, high quality apple for eating or cooking. Ripens in September.

Golden Delicious—medium or large, yellow, productive, a good variety for commercial planting. Ripens in September.

Turley—large, red, productive, good quality. Similar to Stayman but more productive, does not crack. Ripens in September.

Winesap—medium size, red, high quality dessert apple, good keeper. The best late apple for Oklahoma. Ripens in October and later.

STRAWBERRIES

Blakemore—leading commercial variety, early.

Pocahantas—varieties similar to Blakemore, larger, produces a few days later.

EVERBEARING

Twentieth Century, Superfection—most dependable everbearing varieties. Should be grown under mulch culture.

NECTARINES

Cavalier—yellow flesh, medium size, freestone, good quality, productive.

Redchief—white, medium size, freestone, pleasing flavor, productive.

PEACHES

EARLY WHITE

Erly-Red-Fre—very productive, freestone, good quality.

YELLOW FREESTONE

Redhaven—excellent for freezing, firm, good shipper.

Goldenred—large, attractive, productive, excellent flavor, good for fresh use or canning. Short thin fuzz. Resistant to bacterial spot.

Triogem—very productive, much hardier and productive than Elberta.

Ranger—large, productive, good quality, excellent for fresh use or canning. Resistant to bacterial spot.

July Elberta—better quality than Elberta, good shipper.

Halehaven—productive, large, yellow, good quality for canning or freezing.

Early Elberta—popular variety, one week earlier than Elberta.

Redskin—round fruit, good color, productive, good shipper.

Elberta—ripens about mid-August, large, excellent shipper, fair quality.

Gage Elberta—more productive than Elberta.

YELLOW CLING

Frank—yellow cling, good quality, two weeks later than Elberta.

CHERRIES

Early Richmond, Montmorency—fruit of both varieties similar, but ripening over a range of two to three weeks.

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BLACKBERRIES

UPRIGHT

Lawton—midseason, good size and quality, productive, most popular commercial variety.

TRAILING

Youngberry—large size, good quality, very productive and desirable, but subject to winter injury.

Boysenberry—similar to Youngberry, but blossoms and ripens a little later, larger.

Lucretia—vigorous, productive, berries large, long, black, firm, good quality.

PLUMS

Bruce—large, red, early, ripens over long period, cling, yellow flesh.

Sapa—purple, similar to Opata but flesh is purple, productive, cling.

America—red, medium to large size, yellow flesh, cling.

Hanska—red, yellow flesh, medium size, high quality, free.

Green Gage—large, heavy producer.

Gold—yellow with good flavor, productive, medium size. Ripens in July.

OTHER FRUITS

These fruits are adapted to some areas of the state and can be a part of the home grounds plantings. See Extension Circular 456, Landscaping Home Grounds.

Currants—Golden variety.

Huckleberries—(Sugar berries)

Figs—Texas Everbearing (Ramsey)—variety satisfactory in many parts.

Jujube—Large variety (hardy dates), drought resistant, winter hardy.

Persimmons—(Orientals), Tamopan, Tanenashi, Eureka.

Edible Elderberries—Adams.

Crab Apples—Oriental varieties, Florence or Dolgo.

Grape Arbor—Extra, Cimarron, Bailey, Carman.

PEARS

Lincoln—large, early, ripening in late August, good quality, moderately blight resistant, dependable producer, susceptible to scab.

Kieffer and Garber—both varieties are blight resistant, large, productive, medium quality.

Douglas—early bearing, blight resistant, low quality.

GRAPES

S-5898—black, medium size berry, compact clusters, very productive.

S.V. 18-315—black, small berry, very productive.

Delaware—red, small, good quality.

S-9110—white, productive, good for table use.

Cimarron—black, large clusters, juicy, good quality, very productive.

Beacon—black, large clusters, very productive.

Bailey—black, berries and large clusters, productive.

Niagra—white, large berry, large clusters, productive, good quality.

S.V. 12-375—white, medium size berry, large clusters, very productive.

Extra—black, compact clusters, productive.

S.V. 23-657—black, large clusters, medium size berry, very productive.

Catawba—red, good quality, late.

PRUNING

Fruit trees which are pruned annually are better shaped, live longer and produce more fruit. By training the tree each year, the growth can be guided to secure branches where you want them, and insure the best distribution of strength and fruiting wood.

A good job of pruning makes cultivation, spraying and harvesting easier. All the cuts made in the pruning operation should be flush with and parallel to the branch structure. Close cuts will heal more quickly. Do not cut back the tip end of the branches carelessly. A sturdy pair of loping shears and a pruning saw are all the tools needed for most pruning jobs. A pair of hand shears is necessary for pruning grapes and the bramble fruits.

January, February and early March are usually the best months for pruning fruit trees.

MULTIPLE FRUIT TREES

More than one variety of fruit on a tree, such as 3 to 1, or 5 to 1, is a novelty, and is usually very disappointing. There are often difficulties in maintaining the tree shape and size, and in controlling insects and diseases, due to differences in varietal behavior. When selecting a multiple fruit tree, be certain that the variety on each branch is well established. Because of the nature of the tree, careful pruning is necessary to avoid destroying some of the varieties.

DWARF FRUITS

Dwarf fruit trees are in demand by home owners and commercial producers. More progress has been made with apples and pears than with other fruits. Peaches, apricots, plums, cherries and nectarines are available to a lesser degree, and their performance is not usually well established.

Apples are dwarfed by selecting root stocks to be propagated to standard varieties, or by using a stem piece of dwarfing stock in double-working the tree which is propagated. Other kinds of fruits are usually dwarfed by using selected understock that causes slower growth or dwarfing of the tree.

Since various degrees of dwarfing are possible in apples, the medium dwarfing such as E.M. VII is considered best.

Certain advantages of dwarf fruit trees are:

1. The trees start to bear earlier.
2. More kinds and varieties can be produced in a small area.
3. Less special equipment is needed to care for the trees.
4. Trees may be adapted by pruning to substitute for ornamentals.
5. Pruning, spraying and harvesting can be done from the ground.

Certain disadvantages of dwarf fruit trees are:

1. The trees cost about twice as much as standard size trees.
2. Three to four times more trees are required per acre.
3. Dwarf trees require staking or bracing.
4. Fertility and moisture requirements are more exacting.

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