

RECOMMENDED FRUIT, NUT AND BERRY CULTIVARS FOR NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

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Cultivar selection is one of the most important steps in successful fruit growing. A cultivar may perform very well in one area of Texas yet be a complete failure in another area. For this reason, the Texas Agricultural Extension Service has prepared this list (based on 800-900 hours of chilling) to identify those cultivars which have demonstrated outstanding performance in this area of the state for several years.

It is a good idea, if space allows, to include at least two cultivars of each crop in the home fruit planting as one may do better than another in certain years. In other words, put your eggs into more than one basket as one cultivar may survive a late freeze better than another, etc.

Remember, fruit trees do not grow "true" from seed. Instead, the desired fruit-bearing cultivar is budded or grafted onto a particular rootstock which is well adapted to the soils of our area. Example: buds of the peach cultivar known as 'Ranger', an outstanding fruit producer, should, if planting in an acid sandy soil, be purchased already grafted onto a 'Nemaguard' rootstock which has built-in resistance to certain nematodes. The correct rootstock is just as important as the recommended fruit-bearing cultivar.

Although fruit trees are traditionally planted during their dormant season, healthy, well-rooted trees (except figs) grown in containers can be planted all year.

APPLES (*Malus pumila*):

Cultivars: Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Gala, Holland, Jersey mac, Mollie's Delicious, Fuji, Granny Smith

Rootstocks: mature tree size of any of the above cultivars can be regulated by grafting onto one of the following:

dwarf tree: M-9 or M-26 rootstock

semi-dwarf tree: MM-111 or M-7 rootstock
full-sized tree: seedling rootstock

Cross-pollination: to ensure adequate cross-pollination and thus good fruit production, plant at least 2 cultivars

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 15
containerized: January 1 - March 31

APRICOTS (*Prunus armeniaca*)

Note: Due to their early bloom date, most apricots are subject to spring freezes. Many apricot trees produce fruit as infrequently as one of every 3-5 years.

Cultivars: Bryan, Hungarian, Moorpark

Rootstock to request: 'Lovell' for alkaline clay soils, 'Nemaguard' for acid sandy soils

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 15
containerized: January 1 - March 31

BLACKBERRIES (*Rubus sp.*)

Cultivars whose canes are thorny:

Brazos, Womack, Shawnee, Rosborough

Planting dates:

root cuttings: January 1 - February 15
plants: January 1 - February 28

Cultivars whose canes are thornless:

Navajo, Arapaho

Planting dates:

plants: January 1 - February 28

CHERRIES, SOUR (*Prunus cerasus*)

Cultivar: Montmorency

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 15

containerized: January 1 - March 31

CITRUS, SATSUMA (*Citrus reticulata*)

Note: satsumas are not winter hardy in north central Texas. Thus, they should be grown as patio or terrace container plants, in containers of 20 gallon capacity or greater. Move plants into a sunny location indoors when temperatures drop below 26 F. When temperatures exceed 26 F., move plants back outside into full sun.

Planting dates:

containerized: March 1 - April 15

FIGS (*Ficus carica*)

Cultivars: Texas Everbearing, Celeste

Planting dates:

bare root: February 15-March 15

containerized: January 1- March 31

GRAPES, AMERICAN (*Vitis sp.*)

Cultivars: Black Spanish, Champanel, Golden Muscat (These are resistant to Pierce's Disease)

Planting dates:

cuttings (non-rooted): January 1 - February 28

rooted cuttings (1 year old, bare root): January 1 - February 28

containerized: January 1 - March 31

GRAPES, HYBRID (*Vitis sp.* - French x American hybrids)

Cultivars: Seibel 9110, S.V. 12-375, Aurelia, S.V. 12-309

(These cultivars are susceptible to Pierce's Disease; however, they have lived for several years in many areas of the state where occurrence of this disease is quite common)

Blanc Du Bois (resistant to Pierce's Disease)

Planting dates:

cuttings (non-rooted): January 1 - February 28

rooted cuttings (1 year old, bare root): January 1 - February 28

containerized: January 1 - March 31

GRAPES, HYBRID SEEDLESS TABLE (*Vitis sp.*)

Cultivars: Flame, Reliance, Himrod, Glenora, Venus (seed remnants)

Note: these cultivars susceptible to Pierce's Disease

Planting dates:

cuttings (non-rooted): January 1 - February 28

rooted cuttings (1 year old, bare root): January 1 - February 28

containerized: January 1 - March 31

JUJUBES (*Zizyphus jujuba*)

Cultivars: Li, Lang

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 28

containerized: January 1 - March 31

PEACHES (*Prunus persica*)

Cultivars categorized by period of the growing season in which they ripen:

very early: Bicentennial

early: Sentinel, Ranger, Harvester

mid-season: Redglobe, Milam, Majestic, Denman, Loring, Belle of Georgia (white flesh)

late: Dixiland, Redskin, Jefferson

very late: Frank, Fayette, Ouachita Gold

Rootstock to request: 'Lovell' for alkaline clay soils, 'Nemaguard' for acid sandy soils

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 15

containerized: January 1 - March 31

PEACHES, DWARF (*Prunus persica*)

Note: these are genetic dwarfs; they produce full-sized fruit on very dwarf plants

Cultivars: Bonanza II, Early Golden Glory

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 15

containerized: January 1 - March 31

PEARS (*Pyrus sp.*)

Cultivars: Orient, Moonglow, Kieffer, LeConte, Ayres, Garber, Maxine, Warren

Rootstocks to request: 'Calleryana', 'Old Home'

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 15

containerized: January 1 - March 31

PEARS, ASIAN (*Pyrus pyrifolia*)

Note: Asian pears are susceptible to fire blight.

Cultivars: Shinseiki, 20th Century, Hosui

Rootstocks to request: 'Calleryana', 'Old Home'

Cross-pollination: to ensure adequate cross-pollination, plant at least 2 cultivars; or one Asian plus one regular pear cultivar

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 15

containerized: January 1 - March 31

PECANS (*Carya illinoensis*)

Cultivars: Moderate to intensive management situations:

Sioux, Pawnee, Desirable, Choctaw, Kiowa, Caddo, Cape Fear

Low management situation: seedling (ungrafted)

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - March 10
containerized: January 1 - April 15

PERSIMMONS, ORIENTAL (*Diospyros kaki*)

Cultivars with astringent fruit: Eureka, Hachiya, Tane-nashi, Tamopan

Cultivar with non-astringent fruit: Fuyu (Fuyugaki) Note: this cultivar is more susceptible to cold; top of tree may sustain freeze injury during some winters in north central Texas

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 15
containerized: January 1 - March 31

PLUMS (*Prunus salicina*)

Cultivars: Morris, Methley, Ozark Premier, Bruce

Rootstock to request: 'Lovell' for alkaline clay soils, 'Nemaguard' for acid sandy soils

Note: 'Bruce' requires cross-pollination

Planting dates:

bare root: January 1 - February 15
containerized: January 1 - March 31

RASPBERRIES (*Rubus idaeus*)

Cultivars: Dorman Red

Planting dates:

root cuttings: January 1 - February 15
plants: January 1 - February 28

STRAWBERRIES (*Fragaria x ananassa*)

Note: plants must be completely covered with mulch (straw, dry leaves, etc.) when temperatures drop below 15 F. When, in a few days, temperatures exceed 15 F., pull back mulch to again expose foliage.

Annual system (replant each fall):

Cultivars: Chandler, Douglas, Sequoia

Planting dates:

plants: September 20 - October 15

Perennial system (matted row):

Cultivars: Sunrise, Cardinal, Allstar (all of these cultivars are everbearing)

Planting dates:

plants: February 15 - March 15