

Growing Temperate Tree Fruit and Nut Crops in the Home Garden and Landscape

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Varieties for Planting in the Home Garden

Where you live (your "climate zone") will determine which varieties of temperate tree fruit and nut crops will perform best in your home garden, when fruits and nuts are harvested, and which pest and disease problems are more common. This table describes *selected* varieties that are suitable for home gardeners in California. The number of varieties could easily be doubled or tripled if all heirloom varieties and newer varieties available at nurseries or through mail order were included.

Certain varieties are superb eaten fresh. Other varieties tend to be used more often for cooking, canning, and freezing. Experts do not always agree about which varieties are best suited for various uses because individual tastes differ. Thus, the comments in the table regarding these issues are offered as points of interest only, not as official advice endorsed by the UC.

Kiwifruit

(*Actinidia deliciosa* formerly *A. chinensis*)

Kiwifruit is a large, frost-sensitive, temperate zone vine that requires plenty of heat to mature the fruit properly. Kiwifruit do well when grown in warm sites on a trellis or arbor protected from the wind. Soil must be well drained but kept moist at all times. Kiwis can tolerate temperatures as low as 10°F in January but only if hardened off properly. Late spring frosts and especially early fall frosts in November will kill vines. Overhead frost protection is desirable. As noted below, fuzzy varieties are not as cold hardy as smooth skin varieties. Plant kiwis about 15 to 20 ft apart. Kiwis are functionally dioecious. Successful fruit production requires a female cultivar and a male with viable pollen when the female is receptive. Vines leaf out in March, bloom occurs in May, and fruits are harvested in October and November.

Rootstocks

- **Cutting** - Own rooted. From 1/2 inch mid-summer wood or dormant wood. Grows back after frost damage.
- **Seedling** - Extracted seed from ripe kiwifruit.

Fuzzy Varieties

- **Chico** - Male vine used to pollinate Hayward, 8:1 ratio.
- **Hayward** - The commercial female variety grown in California. Large fruit. Excellent flavor. Will ripen on the vine but can be picked when still hard, placed in cold storage (32°F), and removed to room temperature for final ripening. Will keep for up to 6 months.
- **Matua** - Male vine used to pollinate Hayward, 8:1 ratio.
- **Tamori** - Male vine used to pollinate Hayward, 8:1 ratio.

Smooth-Skin Varieties

- **Anna** - Nickel-sized fruit. Unique flavor. Very productive.
- **Issai** - Dime-sized fruit that requires no cross-pollination.
- **Ken's Red** - Dime-sized fruit. Red flesh and skin. Excellent flavor.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Hayward	October	Late Oct.	Late Nov.	Early Nov.	November	NA
Chico	October	Late Oct.	Late Nov.	Early Nov.	November	NA
Matua	October	Late Oct.	Late Nov.	Early Nov.	November	NA
Tamori	October	Late Oct.	Late Nov.	Early Nov.	November	NA
Issai	Late Sept.	Late Sept.	October	Early Oct.	October	NA
Ken's Red	Late Sept.	Late Sept.	October	Early Oct.	October	NA
Anna	Late Sept.	Late Sept.	October	Early Oct.	October	NA

NA = Not Applicable due to chilling requirements

Low Chill Varieties: These kiwi varieties are adapted to the low latitudes of Southern CA because they have low winter chilling requirements (50-250 hr).
'Bruno', 'Abbott', 'Allison', 'Vincent', 'Tewi', 'Elmwood', 'Blake'.