

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.

Pecan
(*Carya illoensis*)

Pecans are not a good choice for Northern California. They require a deep, well-drained soil, a hot climate to mature the nuts properly, and adequate soil moisture. At least two different varieties must be planted for good pollination because even though pecans are largely self-fertile, the flowers are dichogamous, which means that there is little overlap between pollen shedding and stigma receptivity. Most varieties require at least 180 days for nuts to mature. Commercial production in California is limited to the Southern San Joaquin Valley. Pecans are native to the U.S and grow well in the south central states. Their native range extends into the Midwest, so there are varieties that will tolerate cold winters and short growing seasons. The varieties listed here require a very long growing season and freedom from frost. They can be tried in the warmest regions of the state. Trees get large just like big walnut trees. Pecans are grown on seedling rootstocks.

Standard Varieties

- **Apache** - Late pollen shed. Early receptivity.
- **Barton** - Early pollen shed and receptivity.
- **Bradley** - Excellent pollenizer for 'Western Schley'.
- **Choctaw** - Late pollen shed. Early receptivity.
- **Comanche** - Late pollen shed. Early receptivity.
- **Shawnee** - Early pollen shed. Mid-season receptivity.
- **Sioux** - Early pollen shed and receptivity.
- **Western Schley** - Early pollen shed and receptivity.
- **Wichita** - Late pollen shed. Early receptivity.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Apache	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Barton	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Bradley	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Choctaw	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Comanche	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Shawnee	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Sioux	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Western Schley	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Wichita	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.

NA = Not Applicable due to chilling requirements