

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.

Persimmons
(*Diospyros kaki*)

Persimmons are a very good fruit tree for home planting. They bloom late, avoiding spring frosts, and they do not require much winter chilling. They perform well throughout the state. Persimmon trees do not need ideal soil. They will tolerate wet feet in winter and dry conditions in the summer. The fruits are almost pest free. Trees get large and should be planted about 20 ft apart. Cross-pollination is not usually necessary. Cross-pollinated fruit will have seeds; whereas, fruit from a lone tree probably will not.

Rootstocks.

- *Diospyros lotus*. Most widely used seedling rootstock. Best choice. Compatible with most varieties. Tolerates wet soil.
- *D. kaki*. An adequate rootstock. Produces a long taproot and little branching fibrous roots.
- *D. virginiana*. This native species produces a very good fibrous root system, tolerates drought and excess moisture fairly well, but may sucker badly and may not be uniform.

Standard Varieties

- **Hachiya** - Large, deep orange-red, acorn-shaped fruit. The flesh turns brown around the seeds, and flesh must be very soft to eat. Does not need cross-pollination.
- **Fuyu** - Large, flat, orange-red color. Flesh is firm like an apple and non-astringent when ripe. Cross-pollination is not required, but when present, fruit will have seeds.
- **Hyakume** - Cinnamon-chocolate-colored flesh.
- **Baru** - Round, orange skin. Sweet brown flesh.
- *Diospyros virginiana* - Native species, not a variety. Very small, very flavorful fruits. Must be eaten when soft.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Hachiya	October	late October	November	November	late October	late October
Fuyu	October	late October	November	November	late October	late October
Hyakume	October	late October	November	November	late October	late October
Baru	October	late October	November	November	late October	late October
<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	October	late October	November	November	late October	late October