

# **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.

## Almond

(*Prunus dulcis* formerly *P. amygdalus*)

Almonds are stone fruits eaten as nuts. Almonds produced commercially in the U.S. are grown in CA. The earliest to bloom of stone fruits (Feb.). Generally do poorly in North Coast counties. They bloom when weather is cold, rainy. Very susceptible to spring frosts. Almonds do not tolerate wet soils. The Central Valley and drier regions of southern coast are very favorable for almonds. Trees are very susceptible to bacterial canker disease, which kills trees. Cross-pollination is required; all varieties are self-unfruitful, and some are cross-unfruitful due to incompatibilities. Almonds are harvested by shaking trees when hulls begin to split. Almonds need 180-240 days to mature the nuts. The nut (embryo and shell) are dried down to a minimum moisture content.

### Standard Varieties

- **Carmel** - Excellent quality. Well-sealed nut in the shell. Excellent pollinizer.
- **Mission** - Late blooming, productive tree. Hard shell, short kernel.
- **Neplus Ultra** - Large, soft-shelled nut. Long, flat kernel. Good pollinizer.
- **Nonpareil** - The most popular paper shelled variety. Interfruitful with Price, Mission, Carmel
- **Price** - Very similar to 'Nonpareil'. A good pollinizer.

### Harvest Period

<b>Standard Varieties</b>	<b>San Joaquin Valley</b>	<b>Sacramento Valley</b>	<b>Central Coast</b>	<b>North Coast</b>	<b>Sierra Nevada Foothills</b>	<b>Southern California</b>
Carmel	August	August	September	September	August	August
Mission	August	August	September	September	August	August
Neplus Ultra	August	August	September	September	August	August
Nonpareil	August	August	September	September	August	August
Price	August	August	September	September	August	August