

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.

Apricot

(*Prunus armeniaca* L.)

Apricots bloom in February and early March, usually during a cold rain storm; thus, consistent crops are unlikely in North Coast counties. Apricots perform best in climates with dry spring weather. They are susceptible to late spring frosts. Bacterial canker is a common disease of young trees in California. Plant trees at about a 10 to 20 ft spacing. Apricots are mostly self-fruitful and ripen in late June to July (100-120 days from full bloom).

Rootstocks

- **Citation** - One of the best rootstocks for apricots. Slightly dwarfing. Less susceptible to bacterial canker; tolerant of "wet feet."
- **Lovell Peach** - Imparts some resistance to bacterial canker. Susceptible to oak root fungus. Not as tolerant of wet soils as other apricot rootstocks.
- **Marianna 2624** - Somewhat resistant to oak root fungus. Tolerates "wet feet" much better than apricot or peach root. Space trees 20 ft apart.
- **Prunus Besseyi** - Semi-dwarfing rootstock. Short-lived. Suckers profusely. Produces inferior fruit in the scion variety.

Standard Varieties

- **Autumn Royal** - Blenheim sport. Ripens in late summer to fall.
- **Moorpark** - Excellent flavor, ripens unevenly, highly colored.
- **Royal (Blenheim)** - Large, very flavorful, used for eating fresh and drying.
- **Tilton** - Large fruit, heavy producer. Mild flavor. Used for canning.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Autumn Royal	Juen	June	Early July	Late June	Late June	June
Moorpark	June	June	Early July	Late June	Late June	June
Royal (Blenheim)	June	June	Early July	Late June	Late June	June
Tilton	Early July	July	Late July	Late July	July	July

Low Chill Varieties: These apricot varieties are adapted to the low latitudes of Southern CA because they have low winter chilling requirements (<300 hr). 'Goldkist', 'Early Gold', 'Newcastle'. These varieties are newer and should be evaluated for your climate zone and site before being selected.

Varieties to Consider: Castlebright, Earl Golden, Golden Amber, Goldrich, Improved Flaming Gold, King, Pomo, Riland, Rosa, Royalty, Sun Glo.