

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.

Fig
(*Ficus carica* L.)

Figs can be grown easily, but they require a protected location in the cooler parts of the state because of their heat requirement to mature the fruit properly. Fig trees do best in well-drained soils but will tolerate wet soils better than most other fruit trees. Gophers love fig trees and must be controlled. Figs are grown on their own roots from cuttings. Trees reach a height of 20-30 ft with an equal spread but can be pruned to a smaller size. Most varieties require no cross-pollination. Several varieties set fruit parthenocarpically and several varieties have two crops/year. The "breba" crop (first crop) matures in mid-summer in 100-120 days, and the second crop matures in late summer or fall. Figs require very little winter chilling and are considered a "borderline" temperate zone species by many pomologists.

Standard Varieties

- **Adriatic** - Good fresh but especially good for drying. Yellow skin and amber flesh. No breba crop. Ripens late September - October.
- **Black Mission** - The most dependable variety for the home orchard. Purple black skin with red flesh. The first crop (breba) matures in late June, and the second crop matures in August and September.
- **Brown Turkey** - Large fruit. Excellent quality. Produces a small breba crop every year and a second crop in Aug.-Sept. Purple-green skin. Red flesh.
- **Italian Everbearing** - Brown. Turkey-type. Very prolific.
- **Kadota** - Requires high temperatures and a long growing season to perform well. Yellow-green fruit with amber flesh. Produces both breba and a second crop with moderate pruning.
- **Osborn** - Performs well only in cool coastal areas. Produces breba and second crops. Purple-bronze fruit with amber flesh. Very prolific.
- **Smyrna-type** - Calimyrna variety figs require cross-pollination by the Caprifig male to produce a crop.
- **White Genoa** - Good for coastal locations. Large fruit. Yellow-green, thin skin. Strawberry flesh. Ripens when others won't.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Adriatic	June/Sept.	June/Sept.	October	October	June/Sept.	June/Sept.
Black Mission	June/Sept.	June/Sept.	November	November	June/Sept.	June/Sept.
Brown Turkey	June/Sept.	June/Sept.	November	November	June/Sept.	June/Sept.
Italian Everbearing	June/Sept.	June/Sept.	November	November	June/Sept.	June/Sept.
Kadota	June/Sept.	June/Sept.	November	November	June/Sept.	June/Sept.
Osborn	June/Sept.	June/Sept.	October	October	June/Sept.	June/Sept.
Smyrna-type	June/Sept.	June/Sept.	November	November	June/Sept.	June/Sept.
White Genoa	June/Sept.	June/Sept.	October	October	June/Sept.	June/Sept.

NA = Not Applicable due to chilling requirements