

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.

Pomegranate
(*Punica granatum L.*)

Pomegranates are exotic fruits that grow on a small tree or shrub 15 to 20 ft tall, which has shiny foliage and a long flowering season. The tree is very long lived. It is sensitive to frost in fall and spring and does not mature well in cool climates. The tree tolerates wet, heavy soils but performs better in deep, well-drained loams. Fruits cracks with first fall rains. Propagated from cuttings. Requires only a short chilling period. Resistant to oak root fungus (*Armillaria mellea*). Not attacked by codling moth or twig borers. Unharvested ripe fruit attracts ants, fruit flies.

Standard Varieties

- **Ambrosia** - Huge fruit, pale pink skin, similar to Wonderful
- **Eversweet** - Very sweet almost seedless fruit. Red skin, clear juice. Good for coastal areas.
- **Granada** - Deep crimson fruit color. Matures early, but needs heat.
- **Ruby Red** - Matures late (with 'Wonderful') but not as sweet or colorful as 'Wonderful'. All fruit matures at once.
- **Wonderful** - Large, deep red fruit. Large, juicy, red kernels. Small seeds. Matures late. Juice is made into grenadine syrup.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Ambrosia	September	September	October	October	September	September
Eversweet	August	Early Sept.	October	October	Early Sept.	Early Sept.
Granada	August	Early Sept.	October	October	Early Sept.	Early Sept.
Ruby Red	September	September	October	October	September	September
Wonderful	September	September	October	October	September	September