

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.

Walnut (*Juglans regia*)

Walnuts need a deep, well-drained soil (at least 5 ft) or they will do poorly. Shoots, particularly blossoms, do not tolerate frosts. Once growth begins in the spring, rainy weather can cause severe losses due to walnut blight. Trees range in size from very large (80 ft tall) to medium height (*Juglans hindsii*) (40-50 ft tall). They require a 30 to 60 ft spacing. Walnut culture has changed drastically in the last few years due to introduction of new varieties. Production in coastal climates should be limited to the late-leaving varieties. Walnuts are monoecious (separate male and female flowers on one tree) and dichogamous (pollen is shed when female flowers are not receptive); thus, two different varieties must be planted to ensure overlapping bloom periods, fertilization, and fruit set.

Rootstocks:

- **Black** - This has been the standard rootstock in California, known as Northern California Black. It is resistant to oak root fungus but susceptible to crown rot, root rot, root lesion nematode, and blackline virus.
- **English** - This rootstock is seedlings of English walnut. It is very susceptible to oak root fungus but less susceptible to blackline virus. It is the least tolerant of wet soils.
- **Paradox** - The best rootstock choice, in general. A hybrid between Black and English. Very vigorous. Tolerates poorer soil conditions than the others. Less susceptible to crown and root rot. Susceptible to crown gall and blackline virus.

Standard Varieties

- **Chandler** - Best choice for coastal California. New variety. 80% fruitful lateral buds. Produces a smaller tree that requires careful pruning and training. Blooms late. Leafs out late.
- **Hartley** - The main variety grown in California. Excellent quality nuts. Huge tree but requires little pruning. 5% fruitful lateral buds. Leafs out late, blooms late. Good choice.
- **Howard** - Good choice. New variety. 80% fruitful lateral buds. Produces a smaller tree that requires careful pruning and training. Blooms late. Leafs out late.
- **Mayette** - Old-time variety. Plant as a pollinizer for late-blooming varieties. Poor producer. Leafs out late. Blooms late. Large tree.
- **S. Franquette** - Old-time variety. Should be planted as a pollinizer for the late-blooming varieties. Poor producer. Leafs out late. Blooms late. Large tree, but requires little pruning.
- **Tehama** - Good choice. New variety. 80% fruitful lateral buds. Produces a smaller tree that requires careful pruning and training. Blooms late. Leafs out late.

Black Walnut Varieties

- **Seedling** - Not a true variety. Seedlings of Northern California Black Walnut trees.

Eastern Black Walnut Varieties

- **Thomas, Ohio, and Meyers** are three named varieties that may be worthy of consideration.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Chandler	October	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	NA
Hartley	October	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	NA
Howard	October	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	NA
Mayette	October	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	NA
S. Franquette	October	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	NA
Tehama	October	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	NA
Seedling	October	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	NA
Thomas, Ohio, Meyers	October	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	NA

NA = Not Applicable due to chilling requirements