



## RECOMMENDED FRUIT, NUT AND BERRY CULTIVARS FOR WEST TEXAS

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Cultivar selection is one of the most important steps in successful fruit growing. A cultivar may perform very well in one area of Texas yet be a complete failure in another area. For this reason; the Texas Cooperative Extension has prepared this list (based on 800-900 hours of chilling) to identify those cultivars which have demonstrated outstanding performances for several years.

It is a good idea to include at least two cultivars of each crop in the home fruit planting as one may do better than another in certain years. In other words, put your eggs into more than one basket as one cultivar may survive a late freeze better than another, etc.

Remember, fruit trees do not grow “true” from seed. Instead, the desired fruit-bearing cultivar is budded or grafted onto a particular root stock which is well adapted to the soils of our area. Example: buds of the peach cultivar known as “Ranger”, an outstanding fruit producer, should be purchased already grafted onto a ‘Nemaguard’ root stock which has built-in resistance to certain nematodes. The correct rootstock is just as important as the recommended fruit-bearing cultivar.

### **APPLES** (*Malus pumila*)

- Stark Crimson Red Delicious, Starkspur Golden Delicious, Smoothee, Gala, Jeresymac, Mollie’s Delicious, Fuji, Granny Smith, Ranger, Mutsu (Crispin), Adina, Stark Lura Red
- Rootstocks: mature tree size of any of the above cultivars can be regulated by grafting onto one of the following:
  - dwarf tree: EM 9, EM 7, M9, M 26 rootstock
  - semi-dwarf tree: MM 111 or m-7 rootstock
  - full-seized tree: seedling rootstock
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- Cross-pollination: to ensure adequate cross-pollination good fruit production, plant at least 2 cultivars
- Planting data:

- bare root: January 1 - February 15
- containerized: January 1 - March 31

### **APRICOTS** (Prunus armeniaca)

- Notes: Due to their early boom date, most apricots are subject to spring freezes. Many apricot trees produce fruit as infrequently as one of every 3-5 years.
- Bryan, Hungarian, Moorpark, Duecker
- Rootstock to request: 'Lovell' for alkaline clay soils, 'Nemaguard' for acid sandy soils
- Planting dates:
  - bare root: January 1- February 15
  - containerized: January 1 - March 31

### **BLACKBERRIES** (Rubus sp.)

- Love acid, sandy soils. Iron chlorosis is a problem in W TX. Apply chelated iron in early April.
- Cultivars whose canes are thorny:
  - Brazos, Womack, Shawnee, Rosborough (very sweet), Kiowa (very large fruit),
  - planting data:
    - ▶ root cuttings: January 1 - February 15
    - ▶ plants: January 1 - February 28
- Cultivars whose canes are thornless:
  - Apache, Navajo, Arapaho (leave fruit until very dark for sweetness)
  - planting data:
    - ▶ plants: January 1 - February 28

### **CHERRIES, SOUR** (Prunus cerasus)

- Montmorency, (From Stark Brothers)
- Planting data:
  - bare root: January 1 - February 15
  - containerized: January 1 - March 31

### **CITRUS, SATSUMA** (Citrus reticulata)

- Note: satsumas are not winter hardy in north central Texas. Thus, they should be grown as patio or terrace container plants, in containers of 20 gallon capacity or greater. Move plants into a sunny location indoors when temperatures drop below 26° F. When, in a few days, temperature exceed 26° F. When, in a few days, temperatures exceed 26°F., move plants back outside into full sun.
- Planting data:
  - containerized: March 1 - April 15

### **FIGS** (Ficus carica)

- Texas Everbearing, Celeste, Alma, LSU Purple
- Planting data:
  - bare root: January 1 - February 15
  - containerized: January 1 - March 31

## **GRAPES, AMERICAN** (*Vitis* sp.)

- Golden Muscat

- Planting data:

- cuttings (non-rooted): January 1 - February 28
- rootings (1 year old, bare root): January 1 - February 28
- containerized: January 1 - March 31

## **GRAPES, HYBIRD** (*Vitis* sp. - French x American hybrids)

- Verdelet, S. V. 12-375, Aurelia, S. V. 12-309, Chamborcin, Vidal Blanc

- Planting data:

- rootings (1 year old, bare root): January 1 - February 28
- containerized: January 1 - March 31

## **GRAPES, HYBRID AND VINIFERA SEEDLESS TABLE** (*Vitis* sp.)

- Flame, Himrod, Reliance, Glenora, Einsett

- Planting data:

- cuttings (non-rooted): January 1 - February 28
- rootings (1 year old, bare root): January 1 - February 28
- containerized: January 1 - March 31
- rootings (1 year old, bare root): January 1 - February 28
- containerized: January 1 - March 31

## **GRAPES, JUICES, JAMS, WINES AND JELLIES**

- Red - Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Temprinillo, Sangiovese, Shiraz, Ruby Cabernet

- Whites - Chardonnay, Viognier Semillion, Sauvignon Blanc, White Reisling, Chenin Blanc, Emerald Reisling, French Colombard, Muscat Blanc

- Planting data:

- bare root: January 1 - February 28
- containerized: January 1 - March 31

## **JUJUBES** (*Zizyphus jujuba*)

- Li, Lang

- Planting data:

- bare root: January 1 - February 28
- containerized: January 1 - March 31

## **PEACHES** (*Prunus persica*)

- Cultivars categorized by period of the growing season in which they ripen:

- very early: Regal
- early: Harvester, Sentinel
- mid-season: Majestic??LS, Denman, Loring, Belle of Georgia (white flesh)

- late: Dixiland, Redskin
- very late: Frank, Ouachita Gold
- Rootstock to request: 'Lovell' for alkaline clay soils, 'Nemaguard'
- Planting data:
  - bare root: January 1 - February 28
  - containerized: January 1 - March 31

### **PEARS** (Pyrus sp.)

- Orient, Moonglow, Kieffer, LeConte, Ayres??LS, Garber, Maxine, Warren??LS
- Rootstocks to request: *Pyrus betulifolia* (hard to find, but better in high pH soils than other rootstocks) or 'Calleryana'
- Planting data:
  - bare root: January 1 - February 15
  - containerized: January 1 - March 31

### **PEARS, ASIAN** (Pyrus pyrifolia)

- Skinsiki, Shinko, Hosui
- Rootstocks to request: 'Calleryana', 'Old Home'
- Cross-pollination: to ensure adequate cross-pollination, plant at least 2 cultivars; or, one Asian plus one regular pear cultivar
- Note: Asian pears are susceptible to fire blight
- Planting data:
  - bare root: January 1 - February 15
  - containerized: January 1 - March 31

### **PECANS** (Carya illinoensis)

- Hone orchards/yard trees* - Sioux, Pawnee, Caddo, Desirable  
*Commercial Orchards only* - Western, Wichita, Cheyenne, Burkett
- Moderate to intensive management situations.
  - Low management situation: seedling (ungrafted)
  - Planting data:
    - bare root: January 1 - March 10
    - containerized: January 1 - April 15

### **PERSIMMONS, ORIENTAL** (Diospyros khaki)

- Cultivars with astringent fruit:
  - Eureka, Hachiya, Tane-nashi, Tamopan
- Cultivars with non-astringent fruit:
  - Fuyu (Fuyugaki)
  - Note: non-astringent cultivars are more susceptible to cold; top of tree may sustain freeze injury during some winters in the Permian Basin
- Planting data:
  - bare root: January 1 - February 15
  - containerized: January 1 - March 31

## **PLUMS** (Prunus salicina)

- Morris, Methley, Ozark Premier
- Rootstock to request: 'Lovell' for alkaline clay soils, 'Nemaguard' for acid sandy soils
  
- Planting data:
  - bare root: January 1 - February 15
  - containerized: January 1 - March 31

## **RASPBERRIES** (Rubus idaeus) [sensitive to hot summers]

- Dorman Red
  - Planting data:
    - rooting cuttings: January 1 - February 15
    - plants: January 1 - February 28

## **STRAWBERRIES** (Fragaria x ananassa)

- Chandler, Douglas, Sequoia
- Note: plants must be completely covered with mulch (straw, dry leaves, etc.) when temperatures drop below 15°F. When, in a few days, temperatures exceed 15°F, pull back mulch to again expose foliage.
- Planting data:
  - plants: September 20 - October 15

Updated by Dr. Jim Kamas and Dr. Larry Stein, Texas Cooperative Extension Specialists