

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

Revised & Updated by:

Larry Stein, Phd. & Russell Wallace, Phd.  
Extension Program Specialist-Horticulture

Steven B. Paz  
CEA-Ag/NR Ector County

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; 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, , Gala, Jerezymac, Mollie’s Delicious, Fuji, Granny Smith,
- 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, Moorpark,
- Rootstock to request: ‘Halford’ for alkaline clay soils, ‘Nemaguard’ for acid sandy soils
- Planting data: 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.
- Thorny Cane Cultivars: Brazos, Womack, , Rosborough, Kiowa
- Thornless Cane Cultivars: Apache,, Arapaho, Natchez
- Planting data: root cuttings: January 1 - February 15 plants: January 1 - February 28

### CITRUS, SATSUMA (Citrus reticulata)

- Note: satsumas are *not* winter hardy in Texas. Should be grown as patio or terrace container plants, containers of 20 gallon capacity or greater. Move plants into a sunny location indoors when temperatures drop below 26° F. If temperature exceed 26° F (several days), move plants outside into full sun.
- Planting data: containerized: March 1 – April 15

### FIGS (Ficus carica)

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

### GRAPES, AMERICAN (Vitis sp.) -Golden Muscat

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

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

- Verdelet, S. V. 12-375, Aurelia, S. V. 12-309, Chamborcin, Champanel, Vidal Blanc, Herbemont  
Planting data: bare root: January 1 - February 15 containerized: January 1 - March 31

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

- Flame, Himrod, Reliance, Glenora, Einsett  
Planting data: bare root: January 1 - February 15 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

**PEACHES (Prunes persica)**

-Cultivars categorized by period of the growing season in which they ripen: very early: Regal  
*early*: Harvester, Sentinel *mid-season*: Majestic, Denman, Loring, Belle of Georgia (white flesh)  
*late*: Dixiland, Redskin *very late*: Frank, Ouachita Gold  
-Rootstock to request: Halford' for alkaline clay soils, 'Nemaguard' for acid sandy soils  
-Planting data: bare root: January 1 - February 28 containerized: January 1 - March 31

**PEARS (Pyrus sp.)**

-Orient, Moonglow, Kieffer, LeConte, Ayres, Garber,  
-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',  
-Cross-pollination: to ensure adequate cross-pollination, plant at least 2 cultivars; or, one  
Asian plus one regular pear cultivar  
-Planting data: bare root: January 1 - February 15 containerized: January 1 - March 31

**PECANS (Carya illinoensis)**

*Home orchards/yard trees* - Sioux, Pawnee, Caddo, Desirable  
*Commercial Orchards* - Western, Wichita, Cheyenne,  
-Planting data: bare root: January 1 - March 31 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: 'Halford' for alkaline clay soils, 'Nemaguard' for acid sandy soils -Planting data:  
-Planting data: bare root: January 1 - February 15 containerized: January 1 - March 31

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

-Dorman Red  
-Planting data: bare root: January 1 - February 15 containerized: January 1 - March 31

**STRAWBERRIES Fragaria x ananassa**

-Chandler, Sequoia, Sweet Charlie, Camino Real, Albion, Camarosa, Festival  
-Note: Grow best in acid soils; plants must be completely covered with mulch (straw, dry leaves, low tunnel  
plastic, etc.) when temperatures drop below 15°F. Protect flowers when temps drop below 32 °F. When, in a  
few days, temperatures exceed 15°F, pull back mulch to again expose foliage.  
-Planting data: bare root or plugs: September 20 - October 30

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