

FRUITS, NUTS AND BERRIES FOR LAKE COUNTY
Lezlie Ceran, Certified Master Gardener
Rachel Elkins, Horticulture Advisor

INTRODUCTION

Lake County is characterized by cold winters, long, cold, rainy springs, hot summer days and potentially early fall rains and frost. There are plenty of winter chilling hours (hours below 45°F between November 1 and February 15) but varieties that bloom relatively late are preferred, as well as those requiring a fairly short growing season to mature their crop (less than six months). Frost protection will be required in the spring, as well as protection from birds as fruits ripen.

The following varieties are **suggestions** only. The experience of neighbors and local nurseries should also be obtained when choosing a variety. Listed varieties may not be available every year from every source.

Publications noted for further reading are available at the UCCE office.

FRUITS

APPLE

Comments: Cross pollination required; plant two or more varieties. Varieties noted with an * should not be relied upon as pollinizers.

Cultural Notes: Apple trees are potentially long-lived and bear first fruit in 2-3 years when on a dwarfing rootstock. Plant in full sun. Requires a site with well-drained soil and good air circulation. Balanced fertilizer, compost or well-rotted manure can be used in the spring for the first few years. Regular summer irrigation is required. Codling moth is the main insect pest and fireblight is a problem on some varieties and rootstocks. Requires an annual insect and disease control program.

Suggested varieties: Arkansas Black, Enterprise, Gala, Golden Delicious, Granny Smith, Mollie Delicious, Honeycrisp, Jonafree, Jonagold*, McIntosh, Mutsu*, Northern Spy, Red Free, Red Gravenstein*, Red Delicious, Rome Beauty, Sierra Beauty, Spartan, Stayman Winesap*, Yellow Newton.

APRICOT

Comments: Some varieties require a pollinizer.

Cultural Notes: . Tree's life is 20-50 years. First fruit in 2-3 years on peach rootstock. Dwarf varieties are available but are less vigorous and should only be planted in well-drained soil. Hardy to -10° F. Plant in full sun, in well-drained soil. Needs regular watering in the summer. Requires annual winter and spring disease control. Water deeply and prune right after harvest.

Suggested varieties: Chinese (Morman), Goldcot, Harglow, Moorpark, Puget Gold, Rival (requires pollinizer), Royal Blenheim, Sunglo, Tilton, Tomcot, Wenatchee.

APRICOT-PLUM CROSSES (PLUOT® -Zaiger patented crosses)

Suggested varieties: Flavor King, Flavor supreme.

Cultural Notes: Needs to be pollinized by plums, e.g. Santa Rosa

CHERRY

Comments: Cross-pollination required for most varieties; plant two or more varieties.

Cultural Notes: Often fail and die in Lake County due to diseases which occur when planted in wet, heavy soil. Fruit is susceptible to cracking and rot during late spring rains. Plant in full sun in a very well-drained site, avoiding heavy soil. Water deeply in summer. Requires annual winter and spring disease control.

Suggested varieties: *Sweet Cherries* - Bing, Jubilee, Lambert, Royal Ann, Sam, Rainier, Stella (self-fertile), Van, Vista. *Sour (Pie) Cherries* - Meteor, Montmorency, North Star. **Bing, Royal Ann and Lambert will NOT cross-pollinate one another.**

FIG

Cultural Notes: Fig trees grow to 25' and may live over 100 years. First fruit in 2-3 years from planting. Hardy to 10° F but spring frost causes fruit drop. Plant on south side of building or other protected site. Regular watering during dry periods is needed.

Suggested varieties: Black Mission, Latterula, Peter's Honey, Brown Turkey, Neveralla, Violette de Bordeaux, Petite Negri (dwarf, can be grown in a pot and taken indoors).

GUAVA

Suggested varieties: Nazemeth (to 12°).

NECTARINE

Cultural Notes: Most varieties are self-fruitful. Tree's life is about 20 years. Dwarfing varieties bear earlier but are less vigorous and should only be planted in well-drained soil. Hardy to -10° F. Plant in full sun, in well-drained soil; all need regular watering in the summer. Annual dormant and spring disease control is required.

Suggested varieties: Arctic Star, Heavenly White, Independence, Juneglo.

OLIVE

Cultural Notes: Grows easily on wide variety of soils. Tolerates drought once established but irrigation increases yield and fruit size.

Suggested varieties: Mission, Sevillano.

PEACH

Cultural Notes: Most varieties are self-fruitful. Tree's life is about 20 years. Dwarfing varieties bear earlier but are less vigorous and should only be planted in well-drained soil. Hardy to -10° F. Plant in full sun, in well-drained soil; all need regular watering in the summer. Annual dormant and spring disease control is required.

Suggested varieties: Early Elberta, Fay Elberta, Frost, Golden Glory Genetic Dwarf, Indian Free (requires pollinizer), J.H. Hale (requires a pollinizer), Mary Jane, Ozark, Q-18, Red Haven, Reliance, Veteran.

PEAR

Comments: Varieties other than Bartlett and Bosc require a pollinizer so plant two or more varieties. Fireblight is a problem. Resistance to fire blight is noted with **E**=extremely resistant, **G**=good resistance, **M**=moderate resistance.

Cultural Notes: Pear trees are extremely long-lived and bear first fruit in 3-4 years on OHxF rootstock. Some can be maintained at 12 feet or less on quince or some OHxF rootstocks. Plant in full sun. More tolerant of wet soil conditions than other fruit trees but does better in well-drained sites. Because pear blossoms are relatively unattractive to bees, plant pears next to each other and keep weeds (especially dandelions) down at blossom time. Asian pears need to be fruit-thinned to one pear per cluster in order to produce large fruit. Regular watering after rains stop is very important. Fireblight is the major disease problem and codling moth is the main insect pest. Requires an annual insect and disease control program.

Suggested varieties: *European Pears* - Bartlett, Bosc, California, Cascade, Comice (M), Concorde, Conference, Flemish Beauty, Red Clapp (Starkrimson, SuperRed), Red Sensation, Rosired Bartlett (E), Seckel (G), Winter Nelis. *Asian Pears* - Atago (M), Hosui (M), 20th Century, Shinseiki.

Further reading: *Calendar of Operations for Backyard Pear Trees in Lake County.*

PERSIMMON

Cultural Notes: Easy to grow. Adapted to a wide variety of soils. Many newly planted persimmon trees don't come out of dormancy the first season until summer or even fall; keep soil moist if dormancy lasts into the warm season. Tolerates wet feet in winter and dry conditions in summer but does better with irrigation. Almost no pest or disease problems.

Suggested varieties: Chocolate, Fuyu, Gino, Izu, Hachiya, Hyakume, Maru, Meader and native species (*Diospyros virginiana*).

PLUM AND PRUNE

Comments: Plant two or more varieties for cross-pollination. All varieties listed are late-blooming European plums/prunes.

Cultural Notes: European plums grow better than other fruit trees on heavy soils, as long as the site is reasonably well-drained. Plant in full sun.

Suggested varieties: *Plums* - Blufre, Damson, Empress, Golden Nectar, Green Gage, Halian, Yakima, President. *Prunes* - Stanley, French Improved.

POMEGRANATE

Cultural Notes: Tolerates wet, heavy soil. Fruit cracks with first fall rains.

Suggested varieties: Wonderful, Granada, Ruby Red.

QUINCE

Cultural Notes: Does fine here but is structurally weak so tends to blow over in windy sites. Very susceptible to fireblight.

Suggested varieties: Champion, Orange, Pineapple, Smyrna, Van Deman.

NUTS

ALMOND

Comments: Almond is actually a member of the stone fruit family and is closely related to peach and nectarine. Needs cross-pollination so plant several varieties.

Cultural Notes: Blooms in late winter and early spring so is very susceptible to frost injury. If planted, sunny, south-facing slopes or sites close to the lake will do best. Requires spring disease control. Attracts navel orangeworm and squirrels near harvest.

Suggested varieties: Butte, Mission, Padre

CHESTNUT

Comments: Plant or graft two varieties for cross-pollination.

Suggested varieties: Colossal, Nevada (pollenizer).

HAZELNUT (FILBERT)

Comments: Needs cross-pollination so plant several varieties.

Cultural Notes: Generally, Lake County is considered too hot for success. If planted, best as an understory tree or in partial shade. Does well in most soils if they are well drained. Water regularly in summer. Requires winter and spring disease control.

Suggested varieties: Butler, Beaked Hazel, Ennis, Turkish Tree Hazel.

PECAN

Comments: Most varieties require a pollinizer.

Suggested varieties: Cheyenne, Mahan, Major, Peruque, Wichita.

WALNUT

Comments: Late season varieties are preferred to avoid spring frost and walnut blight. Trees are wind-pollinated and pollinizer varieties are not required in Lake County.

Cultural Notes: Irrigate during winter if soil is dry. Several *deep* summer irrigations are desirable but avoid planting in lawns because shallow irrigations cause crown and root rot. Paradox hybrid rootstock is preferred over Northern California Black due to its vigor and resistance to root disease and drought. Prune by thinning out branches rather than topping.

Suggested varieties: Chandler, Franquette, Hartley. Poe is a local variety which bears very erratically; it is not sold in nurseries.

Further reading: *Calendar of Operations for Backyard Walnut Trees in Lake County.*

BERRIES

BLACKBERRY

Suggested varieties: Arapaho, Black Douglas, Chester (later than the rest), Logan, Olallie. *Thornless* - Boysen, Navaho.

Further reading: *Growing Blackberries on the North Coast*

BLUEBERRY

Cultural Notes: Needs acid soil.

Suggested varieties: Earliblue, Collins, Bluecrop, Jersey.

Further reading: *Growing Blueberries on the North Coast*

CURRENT

Cultural Notes: Self-pollinating. First fruit in 2 years. Performs better where cool or in partial shade where summers are hot. Tolerates heavy soil if it is well-drained, or sandy soil, but prefers good loam. Mulch with manure or compost, water during summer. Prune old canes annually, as fruit is borne on new wood.

Suggested varieties: *Red* - Jhonkheer, Redstart, Van Tets. *White* - White Imperial. *Black* - Ben Sarek, Broadtorp, Hilltop Baldwin, Crandall. *Currant x Gooseberry* - Jostaberry.

Further reading: *Currants and Gooseberries*

GOOSEBERRY

Cultural Notes: see Currants

Suggested varieties: Oregon Champion, Poorman, Whitesmith.

Further reading: *Currants and Gooseberries*

GRAPE

Suggested varieties: *Table* - Bronx Seedless, Cardinal, Delight, Delaware, Flame Seedless, Interlaken, Perlette, Ruby Seedless, Muscat types. *American (for juice or jelly)* - Concord, Niabell, Pierce, Niagra. *Wine* - Cabernet Sauvignon (best on hillsides), Sauvignon blanc (grows well in valley and hillside sites), Syrah, Zinfandel.

Further reading: *Calendar of Operations for Backyard Grapes in Lake County*

RASPBERRY

Comments: Fall-bearing varieties have done best in Lake County and produce crops from early summer until the first killing frost. PLANT CERTIFIED VIRUS-FREE PLANTS.

Cultural Notes: Requires deep, well-drained, slightly acid (pH 5.5-6.5) soil and adequate summer irrigation. Plant on raised beds to encourage drainage and prevent root and crown rot. Mulch and utilize a drip system to reduce weeds and avoid fruit rot promoted by sprinklers. Fertilize fall-bearing varieties in spring and just before bloom. Remove and destroy old fruiting canes to avoid insect and disease infestation.

Suggested varieties: *Fall-bearing* - Fall gold, Heritage, Bababerry. *Summer-bearing* - Sumner, Willamette. Gold and purple varieties are also available.

Further reading: *Growing Raspberries on the North Coast*

STRAWBERRY

Comments: Everbearing and day neutral varieties are best for Lake County.

Suggested varieties: Aptos, Brighton, Chandler, Fern, Hecker, Selva, Tristar.

Further reading: *Growing Strawberries on the North Coast*

ROOTSTOCKS FOR FRUIT AND NUT TREES

It is best to plant trees on rootstocks which tolerate heavy, wet soils; they are less prone to soil-borne root and crown diseases. The following tolerate "wet feet" (in decreasing order):

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1) Pear (best) | 9) Apple |
| 2) Quince | 10) Apricot |
| 3) Myrobalan | 11) Peach |
| 4) Marianna | 12) Mazzard Cherry |
| 5) Persimmon | 13) Mahaleb Cherry |
| 6) Fig | 14) Walnut (No. California Block) |
| 7) Stockton Morello Cherry | 15) Almond (worst) |
| 8) Walnut (Paradox-hybrid) | |

FRUIT, NUT AND BERRY SOURCE DIRECTORY

Local Retail Nurseries: Listed alphabetically - carry various fruits, nuts and berries in season. Call for availability of more information.

Golden Oak Nursery
21055 Bush Street
Middletown, CA 95461
(707) 987-2909

Highlands Nursery
3445 Old Highway 53
Clearlake, CA 95422
(707) 994-2356

Kelseyville Nursery
3745 Main Street
Kelseyville, CA 95451
(707) 279-2522

Riviera Tree Farm and Nursery
9927 Soda Bay Road at Hwy. 29
Kelseyville, CA 95451
(707) 279-1415

Scotts Valley Nursery
1300 S. Main Street
Lakeport, CA 95453
(707) 263-4707

Alex Suchan Nursery
10005 Dewell Road (Elk Mountain Rd.)
Upper Lake, CA 95485
(707) 275-2461
(Walnuts only)

Other retail sources:

Bareroot stock may also be bought at local discount, grocery and hardware stores. Check for local availability.

Retail Mail Order Sources

Brittingham Plant Farms
P. O. Box 2538
Salisbury, MD 21802
(410) 749-5153

W. Atlee Burpee Co.
300 Park Avenue
Warminster, PA 18991

Coash/Koppes Plants
P. O. Box 441

Watsonville, CA 95076
(408) 724-6009

Greenmantle Nursery
3010 Ettersburg Road
Garberville, CA 95440
(707) 986-7504
Gurney's Seed & Nursery Co.
110 Capital Street
Yankton, SD 57079
(605) 665-1930/1671

Harmony Farm Supply
P. O. Box 460
Graton, CA 95444
(707) 823-9125

Henry Field Seed & Nursery Co.
415 N. Burnett Street
Shenandoah, IA 51602
(605) 665-9391/4491

Linwood Nurseries
3613 W. Linwood Avenue
Turlock, CA 95380
(209) 634-1836
(pecans only)

Living Tree Center
P. O. Box 10082
Berkeley, CA 94709-5082

Meyer Nursery and Orchards
3795 Gibson Rd. NW
Salem, OR 97304

North Star Gardens
19060 Manning Trail North
Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047-9723
(612) 227-9842
(berries)

Nourse Farms, Inc.
41 River Road

South Deerfield, MA 01373
(berries)

Raintree Nursery
391 Butts Road
Morton, WA 98356
(360) 496-6400

Sonoma Antique Apple Nursery
4395 Westside Road
Healdsburg, CA 95448
(707) 433-6420

Stark Bros. Nursery
Hwy. 54 - P. O. Box 10
Louisiana, MO 63353
(314) 754-4734
catalogue requests and orders only
(900) 325-4180

Smith Nursery
270 W. Briggs Avenue
Lathrop, CA 95330
(209) 982-1276

Sonoma Grapevines, Inc.
1919 Dennis Lane
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 542-5510

NOTE: The above sources are listed for *information only* and *not* as recommendations by UC Cooperative Extension. Quality and price should be carefully evaluated by the consumer.

For additional information, contact the U.C. Master Gardeners at 263-6838. Office hours are Tuesday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to noon and 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at 883 Lakeport Blvd., Lakeport, CA 95453.