

## Recommended Fruit and Nut Varieties

### Jefferson County

by Micah Meyer, County Extension Agent—Horticulture

**M**any types of fruits and nuts grow well in home orchards in Jefferson County. The first key to a successful harvest is to select varieties best suited to our climate. One of the most important considerations in selecting an appropriate plant is its temperature requirements. Citrus trees are subtropical to tropical in nature and many may suffer severe damage or even death in freezing temperatures. However, several types of citrus are sufficiently cold hardy to survive most winters in our region, particularly as mature trees, and especially in the warmer areas of the county. Planting citrus trees on the south and southeast sides of the house or in other sheltered locations will provide some protection from northwesterly cold fronts.

Aside from knowing how much cold a plant can stand, it is also important to know how much cold or how many chill hours it needs. Stone and Pome fruit trees need a period of winter rest or dormancy, when temperatures are between 32°F and 45°F for flowers and leaf buds to develop normally. When enough chilling accumulates, the buds are ready to grow in response to warm temperatures.

If the buds do not receive sufficient chilling temperatures during winter to completely release dormancy, trees may develop physiological symptoms such as delayed and extended bloom, delayed foliation; reduced fruit set and reduced fruit quality. Different species and varieties of stone and pome fruit trees have different chilling requirements. It is important to know the chilling requirements of the varieties you select and to select varieties with chilling requirements most closely matched to your area. Thus, knowing your local chill hours is helpful for selecting the right tree. Jefferson County usually receives 300-550 chill hours.



## Pome Fruit

### ***Apple***

*Most varieties require cross-pollination; for maximum production plant two varieties. Exercise caution in purchasing mail order apple trees propagated in other regions of the country since the bloom cycle may not be synchronous. Rootstocks are very important and many trees are often grafted onto dwarfing rootstocks to maintain a smaller tree that fits well in most home orchard situations.*

**Anna.** Large crops; sweet and crisp; stores two months; self-fruitful, but better production if pollinated by Dorsett Golden. Commonly available and is a good apple for the Golden Triangle. 200 chill hours.

**Dorsett Golden.** Sweet, crisp, very flavorful; large and firm. Very low chill requirement; pollinator for Anna. Commonly available and is a good apple for the Golden Triangle. 100 chill hours.

**Fuji.** Has a poor appearance, but is a very high quality apple. Sweet, crisp, very flavorful apple. It has a dull reddish orange skin, sometimes russet. It is somewhat self fruitful, but better with a pollinator nearby. Many people find this to be a poor producer in our area. 550 chill hours.

**Beni Shogun Fuji.** Fewer chill hours required than Fuji and sweeter too; pinkish in color; self-fruitful, but better with a pollinator. 500 chill hours.

**Ein Shimer.** A low chilling apple that was developed in Israel. It has yellow skin with a tart flavor. It is not a high quality apple, but it will grow in our low chill environment. It is partially self fruitful, but will yield more if pollinated with Anna or Dorsett Golden. 350 chill hours

**Gala.** Wonderful dessert apple from New Zealand; crisp, nice blend of sweetness and tartness, with rich flavor; reddish orange over yellow skin; early harvest; self-fruitful; It might not get enough chill hours during mild winters. 550 or more chill hours.

### ***Mayhaw***

*Mayhaw are a native species of hawthorn that grow from east Texas to Florida. In the wild they are usually found in swampy areas; however they will grow well when planted in a home landscape or orchard. The fruit are small and not good for fresh eating, but they are prized for making some of the finest jelly in the South.*

**Super Spur.** Skin is red & yellow, round; with yellow flesh. Excellent production on a spur-type tree; rust susceptible; fruit drops when ripe.

**Big Red.** Skin is red; round; red flesh. Large fruit and is late blooming.

**T.O. Warren Superberry.** Skin is red; round; reddish flesh. Attractive fruit.

**Mason.** Skin is red; round; reddish flesh. Attractive fruit, early blooming; fruit hangs well on tree.

**Georgia Gem.** Large, red fruit. Attractive fruit and a good tree.

**Reliable.** Late bloomer rarely caught in a late frost. Large fruit with red skin.

## ***Pears***

*Pears are a great fruit for Jefferson County as long as you use varieties that are resistant to fire blight. You usually need more than one variety for cross pollination and fruit set. Pears can become large trees, so plant them in an area with plenty of space. It can take a tree 5 years or longer to come into production.*

*European pears are the classic pears that we are familiar with and are usually harvested in a green stage and allowed to ripen at room temperature. Asian pears reach optimum quality when allowed to ripen on the tree, similar to apples or peaches. Asian pears will be crisp and juicy, with some tartness, especially near the core. European pears will be soft and juicy, with a sweeter, more mellow taste.*

## ***Asian Pear***

**20th Century.** This pear is semi-self fertile. It is a medium to large, round, yellow-green colored pear of good quality. Will set a much heavier crop load if pollinated by another Asian pear. This pear is better suited to more northern locations, but it has been grown successfully in the Houston area. 500 plus chill hours.

**Hosui.** It is a crisp pear with a lot of flavor. It is susceptible to fire blight but seems to tolerate it. 400-500 chill hours.

**Ya Lee.** Perhaps the most widely grown pear in the world and one of the few pyriform Asian pears. 250 chill hours.

**Kikusui.** Ripens in August with greenish yellow skin. The fruit is crisp, sweet, and juicy. 400 chill hours.

**Kosui.** This pear ripens in late July-August. It is yellow with russet skin. The fruit is smaller but with a very sweet taste. 500-600 chill hours.

## ***European Pear***

**Acres Home.** Very precocious, often bearing at three years with large, uniform and attractive pyriform fruit; mild citric acid flavor with some crunchiness; somewhat blight resistant; tree has a spreading shape. 400 chill hours.

**Ayers.** Very high quality; good blight resistance; ripens in mid- to late August; bears in seven to nine years; yellow with red blush; partially self-fruitful. 600 chill hours.

**Biscamp.** This is a great pear for southeast Texas, but it is hard to find. Good for cooking, canning, and fresh eating. 400 chill hours.

**Hood.** Greenish-white fruit; smooth pulp and crisp texture. One of the earliest blooming pear trees. 200 chill hours.

**Southern Bartlett.** Excellent quality pear. 400 chill hours.

**Southern Queen.** A russet pear with very good resistance to fire blight. 300 chill hours.

**Pineapple.** The tree is very productive and bears at an early age. The Pineapple pear is self-fertile but does much better with a pollinator. The tree is very productive and the fruit ripens in August. 200 chill hours.

**Warren.** Excellent quality dessert pear; resistant to fire blight; smooth flesh is juicy and buttery with superb flavor; good keeper; bears fruit in eight to ten years. This one is better suited to areas north of Jefferson County. 600 chill hours.

**Keiffer.** This is the most common pear in the South. It is a coarse pear that is better suited to canning and processing, rather than fresh eating. Tolerates fire blight and is a reliable, consistent bearing tree. 300-400 chill hours.

## **Berries**

### ***Blackberries***

*Blackberries are well adapted to Jefferson County. They are a great crop for organic gardeners because they have relatively few insect and disease problems. They are self-fruitful and do not require a pollinator. Some varieties are trailing and need to be trellised for support while other varieties are upright and do not require a trellis. Blackberries produce on new wood and require pruning each year after harvest.*

**Apache.** Thornless blackberry from the University of Arkansas breeding program; medium size; fruit is sweet and firm; plants have upright growth habit. Not enough data to confirm its performance in Southeast Texas at this time.

**Arapahoe.** Thornless; early ripening; great sweet berry on very productive plant. Erect canes. Well suited variety for Southeast Texas.

**Brisson.** Very thorny; upright; very heavy production; large, sweet, firm; small seed. An early ripening berry.

**Brazos.** An old variety released by Texas A&M. Very productive, large berries with large seed. The fruit is tart unless harvested when fully ripe.

**Kiowa.** Thorny; produces very large berries. High yielding with a long production season. Grows five to six feet tall with a four- to eight-foot spread; blooms earlier and longer than other blackberries. Outstanding blackberry for Jefferson County.

**Natchez.** Thornless blackberry from Arkansas. Has firm sweet fruit, upright growth, and looks to be a promising variety for Southeast Texas.

**Navaho.** Thornless blackberry from Arkansas; medium to large berry; semi erect growing. This variety may have trouble growing in Southern Jefferson County due to insufficient chilling.

**Ouachita.** One of the newest thornless varieties; large size berry; sweet; holds up well after harvest; vigorous vines.

**Rosborough.** Thorny; upright; heavy production; large, firm berry; small seed; much sweeter than Brazos. A good variety for Jefferson County.

## ***Raspberry***

*Raspberries require a milder summer and a colder winter than we receive. There are a few varieties that might produce in the South, but only Dorman Red is consistently recommended.*

**Dorman Red.** The only raspberry that has proven to grow reliably on the gulf coast. It is a good producer but the quality is poor. Produces in June.

## ***Blueberry***

*Blueberries have very specific soil requirements for growth. They prefer a sandy to sandy loam soil that is very acid (pH 4.5-5.5) and well drained. They have few pests and once established are very productive. They require cross pollination so plant more than one variety.*

**Tifblue.** It is one of the best blueberries for home plantings. The fruits are large, light blue and ripen late in the season. The bush is vigorous and very productive.

**Premire.** Is an early season berry. The bushes are vigorous and productive.

**Delite.** Good as an ornamental. The fruits are small and light blue. This is a good late season berry.

**Brightwell.** Vigorous, upright plant, that produces outstanding yields of medium-sized fruit. It ripens early to midseason.

**Climax.** Early ripening. Most of the fruit ripens in a short period of time. The crop load is moderate to high.

**Garden Blue.** Produces a very small, light blue, midseason fruit. The bush is moderately large.

**Woodard.** Plants are medium in size. High yielding, large berries, good quality.

## Citrus

*Citrus produces the best fruit yields for our area and requires little care. There are an infinite number of varieties, all generally grafted onto *Poncirus trifoliata* or its sport *P. trifoliata* 'Flying Dragon' in order to improve tolerance to our soils and to give some size control, as well as to induce early bearing. Many alternate rootstocks are also used. We recommend planting only virus-free plants from reputable growers or grafted trees with virus-free scions obtained from the Texas A&M University—Kingsville Citrus Center in Weslaco.*

## *Grapefruit*

**Bloomsweet.** A cross between a pummelo and a sour orange; an excellent, hardy grapefruit; large and yellow with thinner skin; very juicy with sweet pale flesh and a unique flavor of grapefruit and orange.

**Cocktail.** Good fruit that is white fleshed; seedy; extra sweet; very juicy; and very mellow. Its low acid flavor makes it perfect for juicing.

**Golden.** Matures later in the season than their pink cousins; mild flavorful taste with very few seeds; blonde, thin skin; yellow to amber flesh; very juicy.

**Rio Red.** Large fruit; smooth, thin yellow rind blushed red when mature; flesh deep red and juicy with few seeds; ripens mid- to late November; holds well on the tree until March.

**Ruby Red.** Medium to large size fruit; usually flattened at each end; smooth yellow peel with areas of pink to red blush; segments have characteristic pink to reddish tinge; few seeds.

**Marsh.** Fruit is commercially seedless with pale yellow flesh and large open cavity in the fruit center; the major grapefruit variety for processing.

## *Kumquat*

**Meiwa.** Large, very sweet kumquat with a skin and fruit that is excellent for eating; very ornamental; a heavy bearer; survives 17°F or below.

**Nagami.** Small evergreen tree, very ornamental; bears profusely nearly year-round; slow growing; upright form to eight feet tall by six feet wide; more tart than Meiwa and much less seedy.



**Calamondin.** This is not a kumquat, but it looks very similar. It has small kumquat size fruit; sour juice; very decorative plant; great to cook with fish; hardy into the teens.

### ***Lemon***

**Improved Meyer.** Grown from indexed stock; a very good tasting lemon; not very cold hardy, to 25°F; good as a container plant; virus free.

**Ponderosa.** Medium size vigorous, open-growing tree with large leaves and many thorns; new growth bronzy purple; huge fruit (sometimes more than two pounds); thick yellow rind; very acidic and seedy; ripens early to mid-October; holds well on the tree.

**Ujukitsu.** A Japanese cross between an orange and lemon, with exceptionally tasty mild flavors; a unique tasting fruit. Novelty.

**Variegated Pink Eureka.** Vigorous, open-growing tree with green/yellow/white variegation; makes a very attractive landscape plant; fruit is often ribbed. Cold sensitive.

### ***Lemonquat***

**Lemonquat.** Highly attractive, small to medium size tree, with elongated, deep green leaves; hybrid of a lemon and sour kumquat; small, pear-shaped fruit, with a smooth yellowish rind; tart flesh is orange-yellow with many seeds; holds well on the tree.

### ***Lime***

**Mexican/Key Lime.** Mexican and Key Lime are the same thing. Small, excellent quality fruit; excellent in pies and also in drinks such as limeade. Very productive; not cold tolerant; a very small ever-bearing tree. There are thornless and thorny varieties.

**Persian.** Handsome, compact, medium size tree with dark green leaves, bigger than the leaves of the Mexican or Key lime; tree has small thorns; dark green rind gradually turning light green then yellow at full maturity; fruit somewhat larger than the Mexican or Key lime.

**Kaffir lime.** Small to medium size upright growing tree with elongated, notched leaves and many thorns; aromatic leaves are used to flavor soups and curries in Asian cooking; small, rounded fruit with a dark green bumpy rind. Pulp is light green, sour and very seedy.

### ***Limequat***

**Eustis.** Cross between Key lime and Meiwa kumquat; excellent lime substitute; fairly cold tolerant. Cold sensitive.

**Lakeland.** Yellow-orange fruit on bushes three feet tall; highly productive.

**Tavares.** Larger than Eustis; cross between Mexican lime and Nagami kumquat; few seeds; lime-like flavor; small, compact tree with tiny leaves; highly productive; very cold tolerant.

### ***Mandarin/Tangerine***

**Changsha.** Very cold hardy with small to medium size fruit and lots of seeds; matures to approximately 10 to 15 feet if not frozen back from a hard freeze; will come back from the roots as it is not grafted; hardy to approximately 15°F.

**Cleopatra.** A low spreading shrub or bushy tree with dark green, shiny leaves; bears fragrant white flowers, followed by a tart, navel-marked, deep reddish orange fruit.

**Atlas Honey.** Also called the Murcott, from an old Tangor variety. Fruit has a deep orange exterior; thin skinned; glossy texture; slightly flat in shape with no neck; very juicy; peels and segments easily; many seeds.

**Clementine Honey.** A very popular mandarin; produces high yields of a nearly seedless, sweet, tender, juicy, acidic fruit; matures late fall into winter; sensitive to freezing winter weather.

**Kishu Seedless Mandarin.** Small to medium size tree with dwarfing characteristics; small to medium size fruit; thin, bright orange easy-to-peel rind; sweet, juicy, mild flavored; seedless; ripens November through December. Highly recommended and a favorite plant of local citrus expert Bonnie Childers.

**Page.** High quality, good fruit that is sweet and easy to peel. Matures early in most years. Fruit holds well on the tree.

**Sunburst Tangerine.** Medium size, upright growing tree; medium size fruit with a thin, bright, orange-red rind; fairly easy to peel; few seeds; ripens early.

**Tonkan.** Medium to large fruit; deep orange and somewhat wrinkled; juicy and rich with a sweet flavor; stores and ships well.

### ***Orange***

**Ambersweet.** Can be peeled more easily than other oranges; resembles a navel orange in size and appearance and has a good orange rind and dark orange juice color at maturity; trees moderately cold hardy.

**Cara Cara Pink Naval.** Medium fruit; deep orange skin with reddish flesh; interior is extremely sweet with a relatively low acid content; few to no seeds.



**Marrs Early.** Juicy, seedless navel orange of low acidity; heavy crops of medium size fruit; exhibits a tendency to alternate bearing; grown for the fresh market; the home grown ones are much tastier than store bought.

**Moro Blood Orange.** Most colorful of all the blood oranges; exterior shows a bright red blush; internal color deep red mixed with orange; juice equally dark and sweet; fruits medium size; easy to peel; usually seedless; one of the most delicious of all oranges. We usually do not get the deep reddish orange internal coloration.

**Navel Orange.** Medium to large, round-headed tree with deep green foliage; fruit is large with moderately thick, orange rind and pronounced navel at blossom end; rich flavor, with nicely balanced sugar and acid; very juicy and seedless; moderately easy to peel and separate into segments; ripens early to mid November.

**Republic of Texas.** Documented back to 1847 near Angleton, Texas; medium to large round orange; very flavorful; ugly fruit; very cold tolerant.

### *Satsuma*

**Miyagawa.** Large fruit with thin skin and a smooth rind. It is Seedless with a well balanced sugar to acid ratio. Fruit quality is excellent and rates highly in taste tests.

**Xie Shan.** Another early Satsuma with a great sugar to acid ratio similar to miyagawa. The fruit is completely seedless, easy to peel and the flavor is said to be excellent.

**Mr. Mac.** A very good Satsuma from Louisiana. This variety is reported to have good cold tolerance. Thin skin and easy to peel.

**Armstrong Early.** Ripens in September; excellent production; decent flavor; small tree; hardy to 20°F or lower. Main virtue is early production.

**Brown Select Satsuma.** Medium size spreading tree with deep green foliage. Medium size, bright orange fruit, often with a slightly bumpy rind; extremely sweet, sprightly flavor; seedless; very easy to peel.

**Kimbrough.** Very good flavor; and is thought to be slightly more cold hardy than other satsuma varieties.

**Miho Satsuma.** Medium size, slightly upright growing tree with deep green foliage; extremely cold hardy; medium size, bright red orange fruit; smooth, thin leathery rind; extremely sweet, sprightly flavor; seedless; easy to peel.

**Okitsu.** This is a vigorous growing Satsuma. Fruit matures October and November and is reported to store better than other varieties.

**Owari.** The original Satsuma cultivar introduced from Japan in the 1800's. It has very good flavor; great production; tree moderately vigorous but slow growing; medium-

small, spreading and drooping; hardy to 22°F or lower. This is the most widely grown Satsuma in Jefferson County.

**Satsuma BC2.** A delicious early maturing Satsuma; a seedling of “Armstrong Early,” collected by Bonnie Childers; quite cold hardy, down into the low 20s.

**Seto Satsuma.** Medium size spreading tree with deep green foliage. Fruit is medium size, flat, bright red orange with a smooth thin rind; fruit has a good flavor and is seedless.

### ***Miscellaneous Citrus***

**Chandler Pummelo.** Medium to large size tree with big, dark green, winged leaves; very, very large fruit that is typically roundish with a slightly pointed neck; rind is smooth, thick and yellow; flesh is pink, sweet and mostly seedless; ripens early to mid-November; holds well on the tree until January.

**Yuzu.** Fruits are acidic and moderately juicy with pleasant citrus aroma; can be used as a lemon substitute; grown as a rootstock for other citrus varieties and for its fruit; fruit shape is flattened and irregular with a yellow-orange skin.

**Bhuddas Hand.** An unusual looking fruit that resembles a hand with fingers. It is nearly all rind and pith with little pulp or juice. The fruit is very fragrant and the rind can be used to flavor foods. It makes a great conversation piece. This is a very cold sensitive plant.

### **Stone Fruit**

#### ***Peach***

*Peaches can be a demanding crop to grow in Jefferson County. They require a well drained soil. Even short periods of water saturated soil can lead to poor peach performance. Peaches require detailed pruning to keep the tree productive and at a manageable height. Peaches generally do best if grafted onto Nemaguard rootstock. Peaches are self fruitful.*

**Earligrande.** Medium to large; yellow skin with a red blush; firm, excellent flavor, fine texture, yellow flesh; semi-freestone; heavy producer; excellent quality. 200 chill hours.

**Flordaking.** Medium size, yellow flesh; slight oval shaped peach with small tip and firm flesh; fruit ripens approximately 65–70 days after full bloom. 450 chill hours.

**Galaxy.** Known as a “flat,” “saucer” or “doughnut-type” peach because of its round, squat appearance; has light cream skin with a red blush and white flesh. Chill hours are low, but it is too new on the market to have yet been determined. Might be difficult to find.

**La Feliciana.** This is a yellow fleshed freestone peach. It is commonly found at local nurseries. It is a great peach for the south.

**Midpride.** Exceptional flavor and dessert quality; one of the best yellow freestone for warm winter climate of Jefferson County; midseason ripening; self-fruitful. 250 chill hours.

**Red Baron.** Showy double red blossoms; large, juicy, firm, richly flavored yellow freestone fruit; ripens from mid-June to mid-July; self-fruitful. 250–300 chill hours.

**Rio Grande.** Large freestone yellow flesh; ripens June to July; excellent peach for warmer areas of Texas. 450 chill hours.

**Sam Houston.** Texas A&M variety, low chill self fertile, does good in the South. Good quality yellow fleshed freestone. Ripens in June. Good peach. 500 chill hours.

**Tex King.** Large, firm yellow flesh; ripens May to June; Texas A&M introduction. 400 chill hours.

**Tex Star.** Yellow, semi-cling stone. This variety will sometimes produce fruit with a pointed tip. 300 chill hours.

**Tropic Beauty.** Early bearing, semi-freestone; good quality, sweet and juicy; self fruitful. 150 chill hours.

**Tropic Snow.** Excellent tasting, white meat freestone; pale yellow skin with red blush; large fruit that ripens in early May; self fruitful. 150–200 chill hours.

**Tropic Sweet.** Super quality; yellow meat, large and very sweet; productive, strong tree; self fruitful. 150 chill hours.

## ***Nectarine***

*Nectarines are basically a peach without the fuzzy skin; which allows for their darker skin coloration. Many nectarine cultivars came from bud sports off of a peach tree. Nectarines are generally considered to be more prone to disease & insect damage than peaches.*

**Arctic Star White.** Dark red skin, snow-white semi-freestone flesh; self-fruitful; low winter chilling requirement. 300 chill hours.

**Karla Rose.** White fleshed nectarine; listed at 600 chill hours but has reportedly done well in the Southeast Texas area.

**Panamint.** Attractive red-skinned yellow freestone; aromatic, intensely flavored, nice acid sugar balance; dependable; self fruitful. 250 chill hours.

**Sunmist.** A white fleshed nectarine; semi-clingstone variety with nicely shaped medium to large fruit; firm flesh; dull purple skin; highly resistant to bacterial spot. 300 chill hours.

**Sunraycer.** A nectarine from Australia; heavy fruiting, large, three-inch; yellow meat with good taste; high bud set with an excellent resistance to bacterial leaf spot. 275 chill hours.

## ***Plum***

*Plums are generally an easier fruit to grow than peaches or nectarines. Some varieties are self fruitful, but they will benefit by having a pollinator plant nearby. The biggest problem is bacterial canker. This disease is usually fatal and is best controlled by cleaning all pruning equipment prior to and after pruning each tree with chlorine bleach.*

**Au Rosa.** Similar to Santa Rosa and has some disease resistance. Purplish red with amber colored flesh. 400 chill hours. This plum is out of the university of Alabama and there are many other varieties from them that look to be promising in Southeast Texas.

**Gulf Beauty.** Very early production; larger than Gulf Ruby; bright red skin; yellow flesh; very disease resistant; excellent production over a four to five week period; super quality. 250 chill hours.

**Gulf Blaze.** Released with Gulf Beauty; blooms about two weeks later than Gulf Beauty; light red skin, yellow flesh; production scattered over five to six weeks; excellent disease resistance; very good fresh eating. 250 chill hours.

**Gulf Rose.** Red fleshed plum; resistant to bacterial disease. 275 chill hours.

**Bruce.** This plum will produce for us, but it is not known as a quality plum.

**Methley.** Juicy, sweet, red flesh; mild flavor; reddish purple skin; harvest in June; attractive tree; heavy bearing and vigorous. 250 chill hours. Plant is usually available in Jefferson County.

**Santa Rosa.** A large purplish plum; amber-colored flesh; excellent quality fruit, is susceptible to bacterial canker. Fairly self fertile and a good pollinator for other varieties. 400 chill hours.

**Segundo.** A cross of wild and domesticated plums; tough and disease resistant; red skin and orange-red flesh. Clingstone; needs a pollinator; ripens mid-June. 450 chill hours.

## **Grapes and Muscadines**

*Grapes are a little more demanding than other fruit. They require training, trellising or some type of support to grow well. The biggest problem facing grape growers in Southeast Texas is Pireces Disease. If you grow a susceptible variety, then be prepared for the grape plants to be relatively short lived. Bunch grapes are self fruitful.*

*Muscadines are native to much of the Southeastern U.S. Some muscadine varieties produce only female flowers and must be planted with a self fruitful variety to ensure pollination. There are many varieties of muscadine, but only those that are known to perform well in Southeast Texas are discussed below.*

### ***Muscadine***

**Black Beauty Muscadine.** 23 percent sugar; large fruit; skin edible; ripens uniformly; large cluster; very vigorous; one of the best black varieties; ripens mid to late season. Black skinned, female.

**Darlene Muscadine.** Bronze female; 24 percent sugar; the best of the bronze scuppernongs; consistently large size throughout vines; not erratic; melting pulp; excellent quality.

**Fry Muscadine.** Bronze female; 21 percent sugar; very large fruit and clusters; excellent quality even before fully ripe; ripens over whole season.

**Granny Val Muscadine.** Bronze self fertile; 16 percent sugar; high yield; excellent quality; ripens in mid to late season; very heavy producer.

**Carlos.** 16 percent sugar, Medium size, good quality, and is very productive. Bronze self fruitful.

**Cowart.** Large clusters of medium sized grapes; excellent flavor; very productive and ripens early in the season. 17 percent sugar, black skinned, self fruitful.

**Ison Muscadine.** Black self fertile; 19 percent sugar; very productive; ripens uniformly; large cluster; dry scar; early to midseason; very disease resistant.

**Pam.** Pam has some of the largest clusters of muscadine grapes. A very heavy bearing variety. The skin is considered to be more edible than other varieties. 21 percent sugar. Bronze skin, female variety.

**Magnolia.** This variety has produced some of the finest wine in the state. 15 percent sugar. Bronze skin, self fruitful.

**Rosa.** Rosa is considered one of the best of the red skinned muscadines. Has a sweet flavor, vigorous vine. Good for home use. 18 percent sugar. Female.

**Scuppernong.** Scuppernong is a widely known muscadine. 17 percent sugar. It produces small clusters of medium size grapes. Bronze skin, female.

**Summit.** An older variety with excellent quality and production. 20 percent sugar. Red skin, female.

### ***Bunch/Table Grapes***

**Mortensen Hardy.** Large grapes the size of a quarter; green with pink blush; excellent taste with few seeds; a vigorous vine; resistant to Pierce's disease.

**Himrod.** Small, white seedless; a cross of the Thompson seedless and Ontario; will grow and produce in more humid areas than the Thompson seedless.

**Flame Seedless.** A red skin seedless with firm flesh; very productive; good eating quality.

**Black Spanish/Lenoir.** A black skinned, very productive variety for wine or jelly production. Not regarded as a good fresh eating grape. Vigorous variety with some resistance to Pierces Disease.

**Blanc du Bois.** This is a white skinned variety. This variety has produced award winning wines. It is susceptible to anthracnose.

**Champanel.** Black skinned variety. It has small clusters of large, but poor quality grapes utilized for wine or jelly. It is good for arbors because it is very vigorous and disease resistant.

### ***Fig***

*Figs are an excellent fruit for Southeast Texas. They are easy to care for and are a favorite fruit of many home gardeners. They do not like dry, hot weather and will drop their fruit if they become too stressed; however mulching and regular watering will help produce an ample harvest. Birds and varmints can sometimes be a nuisance.*

**Alma.** Fig variety from Texas A&M. Ripens with a light yellow color. Good quality, fruit has a drop of honey in the eye, reducing damage from fruit beetles.

**Celeste.** One of the best for our area; purple-brown skin, pink flesh; medium fruit with excellent flavor; closed eye; very cold hardy. A great fig variety, sometimes called "Sugar Fig."

**Texas Everbearing.** Medium sized fig with a very sweet flesh. Usually available in our area. Many of the Extension fruit experts tend to lump Texas Everbearing and Brown Turkey together as the same fig. However, for this publication they are listed as two distinct cultivars.



**Brown Turkey.** This is a very popular fig variety in Southeast Texas. The figs are a medium to large size fruit. Brownish maroon skin. Flesh is sweet with a rich flavor.

**LSU Gold.** LSU release with great resistance to splitting. Fast grower and heavy producer of large, light yellow, very sweet figs. The yellow skin coloring is thought to reduce bird damage.

**LSU Purple.** LSU release; medium size; glossy reddish to dark purple; white flesh with light strawberry pulp; very good mild flavor; high sugar content; closed eye; very cold hardy and resistant to nematodes.

## Pecan

*Pecans are one of the more challenging fruit/nut trees for homeowners to grow. They require frequent, well timed sprayings for option health and production. However, they often get too large to spray effectively. It is generally recommended that homeowners plant a disease resistant variety and plan on growing them for the landscape purposes and plan on production only in those years when environmental conditions are favorable. Generally you need an early and late pollen shedding tree to ensure good pollination. However, we generally have enough trees in the area that pollination is not a problem.*

**Choctaw.** High oil content; 60 percent kernel; thin hull; large, attractive; well adapted to Houston; the best “yard” tree; average 45 per pound; bears in late October.

**Jackson.** Outstanding; very large, high quality nut; averages 33 nuts per pound with 54 percent kernel; high disease resistance; bears early November in five to six years.

**Moreland.** A strictly first class pecan variety; nuts are medium-large, average 50 per pound, oblong, with a very thin shell; beautiful tree with large foliage; bears early September.

**Oconee.** Released in 1989 for use in the southern U.S. pecan belt; nut is elliptic with obtuse apex and base; round in cross section; large nut, 48 per pound, with 56 percent kernel; excellent survival rate when subjected to cold weather; excellent cracking quality.

**Pawnee.** Very large nut with high kernel percentage and early maturity in mid-September; good high density planting; average 40 per pound.

**Sumner.** Soft shell, early bearing, medium size and good quality nuts; suited for close space planting.

**Lakota.** Trees are vigorous, upright with strong limb angles and a wind-resistant tree structure. Very scab resistant. Shells easily to full halves. Nut is oblong oval with an acute point and rounded base (59 nuts per lb.) and 62% kernel.

**Nacono.** Nacono has very high nut quality, scab resistance, and excellent tree strength. Nuts are suitable for in-shell or shelling trade. Nut size is about 47 per pound and kernel percentage averages 56%. Upright tree growth.

**Desirable.** Large nut, cracks easily. Heavy producer and bears early. Disease resistant. Popular eastern variety. A good pecan and a great yard tree.

**Cheyenne.** The Cheyenne bears heavy and early after planting. The nuts are medium size (55-60 nuts per pound) and usually contain 57%-61% kernel. Thin shell and high quality kernel.

**Caddo.** A small, football shaped nut with excellent kernel quality. This variety is becoming more and more popular each season in orchards and home plantings. Very disease resistant, vigorous, upright grower. Eastern variety. 60 nuts per pound, 57% kernel.

## **Persimmon**

*Persimmons are a great fruit for the south. They have a minimum amount of insect & disease problems and are very decorative in the home orchard or landscape. There are astringent varieties that must be eaten only when fully ripe and non astringent varieties that can be eaten while still firm with full color. Persimmons are self fruitful.*

**Eureka.** A vigorous producer; bright orange fruit, as large as tea cups; astringent until ripe; starts bearing around the third year; semi-dwarf tree.

**Fuyu.** Orange with light orange flesh; large, sweet tasting, flat shaped fruit; practically pest free; very hardy, attractive tree; firm, non-astringent; This is the most commonly planted persimmon in Southeast Texas. 200 chill hours.

**Tani Nashi.** Large, cone shaped fruit. Dark yellow when ripe. Usually seedless and makes a large tree.

**Hachiya.** Large acorn shaped fruit. Very attractive orange color. One of the most widely planted varieties. Astringent.

**Ichikikei Jiro.** Flat, orange fruit with very good flavor, somewhat smaller than the Fuyu; fairly small tree; great for small yards; good quality; non-astringent.

**Matsomoto Wasefuyu.** Flat, orange fruit, fairly large; very good quality; very good production on a vigorous spreading tree; non-astringent.

**Saijo.** Small elongated fruit; sweet and juicy; medium size tree; fruit stores well; an early ripening, heavy producer; astringent.

**Suruga.** Red; semi-flat fruit; somewhat smaller than the Fuyu; very sweet, excellent taste; vigorous, slightly upright tree; non-astringent.

**Tamopan.** This is one of the older varieties with a distinctive constricted band around the fruit. Astringent.

## **Strawberry**

*Strawberries are best grown in Jefferson County using the annual method. This means planting the plants each year in October, growing through winter, producing the crop, and removing the plants after harvest. Strawberries grow best in a sandy soil with a generous layer of mulch or black plastic to protect the shallow roots and keep the fruit off of the ground. One plant will generally produce one pint to one quart of fruit per season.*

**Chandler.** One of the better varieties for the Gulf Coast. It is a productive and attractive berry with firm flesh. Quality is good.

**Camarosa.** Developed by the University of California. A little earlier than Chandler with more firmness, well-shaped fruit fair to good quality. One of the leading commercial varieties in the Southeastern States.

**Sweet Charlie.** Developed by the University of Florida. Early maturing, short fruiting period, light red berries, good to fair quality.

**Camino Real.** Developed by the University of California. Later than Camarosa, produces large to extra large berries, firm, good-shaped fruit with good quality.

**Sequoia.** Large high quality berries, but the production is usually lower than other varieties. The berries are soft and do not store or ship well.

**Selva.** A vigorous variety, that produces in the early spring. The quality is good.

## **Miscellaneous Fruit & Nuts**

### ***Jujube***

*Jujubes are an easy to grow fruit that are sometimes known as a Chinese date. The fruit are small and the taste is reminiscent of an apple when fresh. They can be candied to make a date substitute. The tree can grow 25 to 30 ft tall and has attractive glossy green foliage and tiny yellow flowers. The trees do have thorns. They are self fruitful.*

**Tiger Tooth.** Considered one of the best jujubes out there; vigorous tree; long fruit has crisp texture like an apple; mild flavor; quite sweet; a heavy producer every year.

**Li.** Fruit is almost round, three to four inches long; ripens well on kitchen counter or in the refrigerator; heavy producer. Some like to eat this cultivar green straight off the tree,

but most prefer to pick the fruit when amber spots appear or wait until the fruit is completely brown.

**Lang.** Lang is the most widely grown named variety in Texas. It produces heavy crops of large pear shaped fruit that matures ahead of the Li variety. Lang produces a more spreading tree than other jujube trees.

**So.** An unusually shaped and contorted tree with good fruit, but is not a heavy bearer.

**Sherwood.** An upright tree with very large jujubes; sets heavily when other jujubes are nearby or grafted to it.

## ***Mulberry***

*There are many unnamed/wild cultivars of mulberry. Some species are native, while others were introduced from Asia. Mulberry trees can be grown as a landscape tree, but they will also produce fruit that resembles a blackberry, 1 to 1½ inches long. A few named mulberry cultivars exist, but you will most likely have to use a mail order source to get them, or just grow a wild mulberry.*

**Pakistan.** Long (three inches), firm, red to black, sweet fruit; non-staining juice; month-long early summer harvest; fruit used fresh and for pies, jams, and jellies; large, vigorous, disease resistant tree.

**Illinois Everbearing.** Produces abundance of highly flavored, large, red fruit that turns black when ripe. The fruit is known to stain surfaces that it falls on.

**Shangri La.** This variety comes from Florida. Large black fruit with huge heart-shaped leaves. Bears fruit earlier than other varieties.

## ***Paw Paw***

*Paw Paws grow wild from Michigan to Florida, but they are not readily available in nurseries. Try nurseries that specialize in native plants and ask for paw paws that originated in a similar climate. A Michigan pawpaw would not be at home in Texas. Paw paws are slow growing, deciduous, pyramidal shaped trees. You need at least two trees for pollination. There are many varieties, but their performance in the gulf coast is not widely known.*

**Mango Paw Paw.** Large and very delicious with yellow flesh reminiscent of a mango; lower chill than other paw paws. This one came out of Georgia and is sometimes found from mail order nurseries in the southern states.

## ***Pomegranate***

*Pomegranates have become popular in recent years for their health benefits, landscape use, as well as backyard fruit production. Once established they are a low maintenance plant. Pomegranates are self fertile.*

**Fleishman.** Large rounded fruit. Very sweet flavor, seeds are relatively soft, good quality.

**Cloud.** From the University of California, Davis; medium size fruit with a green-red color; juice sweet and white.

**Sweet.** Large, round, light red; very sweet; a very good producer; good ornamental shrub.

**Wonderful.** Produces a large, dark red skinned fruit. It is juicy and has a good flavor. This variety is widely found in nurseries.

## ***Avocado***

*Avocados are a delicious fruit that can occasionally be grown successfully in Southeast Texas. Many people have planted seeds from grocery store avocados and have had varying degrees of success, but more often than not, the tree fails due to cold weather or improper care.*

**Hass.** Hass Avocado sometimes spelled Haas, is the most popular avocado variety in California. It can be grown successfully here, but needs to be protected from the cold. Consistent success with avocados has proven difficult in Jefferson County. Life expectancy of the tree is usually short due to freeze damage. A single tree should yield fruit, but yields will be greater if more than one tree is present.

## ***Olive***

*There is a lot of interest in growing olives in Texas. Olives tend to grow better in Southwestern Texas, but they can be grown in our area. Our high rainfall, acid soil, and occasional freezes are not ideal conditions for growing olives. However, bearing olive trees have been grown in Southeast Texas. Most olive varieties are self fertile, but increased production often results from cross pollination.*

**Arbequina.** A Spanish olive of medium brown color. Often cited as one of the best olives for Texas. Fruit is about the size of a dime. Can get 12-15ft tall. Brine cured for eating and pressed for making excellent olive oil.

**Mission.** Size of a quarter, ripens to black, can get 20 ft tall; can be used for olive oil or processed for table olives.

**Chemlali.** Can get over 20ft, ripens to a shade of black. It is mostly grown for its oil, rather than processing for table olives. Self fertile.

## ***Loquat***

*This fruit is sometimes known as Japanese plum. It is widely grown as an ornamental and will occasionally bless you with fruit when the winters are mild. The plants bloom in the fall and the fruit will ripen in early spring. There are very few named cultivars of loquat available; so it's probably going to be easier to just plant an unnamed variety normally grown for ornamental purposes. They are self pollinating.*

**Christmas.** If you must have a named loquat cultivar, then look for this one from mail order sources. This variety ripens very early in the season, escaping most of the hard January and February freezes. Fruit is huge, up to 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Bright yellow with a tangy flavor.

## ***Banana***

*Bananas are another fruit that will occasionally bless you with fruit when we have a mild winter. Most people will plant a banana tree for a tropical landscape plant and then are surprised when a banana cluster forms. The fruit are almost always smaller than the typical banana that we are accustomed to buying at the grocery store. Listed below are a few of the hardy banana cultivars that might be grown in a protected environment.*

**Gran Nain.** Comparatively dwarf with large fruit clusters.

**Pysang Raja.** Tall and hardy with pinkish colored fruit.

**Rajapuri.** Tough and hardy with medium size fruit.

**Dwarf Cavendish.** A smaller tree that produces medium sized sweet fruit.