

# Guide to Selecting Fruits and Nuts in Montgomery County

Prepared by: Thomas LeRoy, County Extension Agent - Horticulture

## Apples

**General Information:** Apples are one of the more demanding fruits to grow. They tolerate a wide range of soil types but require excellent drainage. Most of the southern apple varieties ripen in July or August which affects color and reduces overall quality. There are several serious disease problems which require routine applications of a fungicide throughout the production season. In the gulf coast this fruit is not recommended for those individuals interested in growing organically. Whenever possible try to select varieties grafted on dwarf or semi dwarf root stock. These trees will come into production earlier and require much less space in the landscape. Most apples require more than one variety be planted to help ensure proper pollination and fruit set.

Apple Varieties	Chill Requirement	Ripe/Color	Remarks/Description
Anna	100-300 hrs.	Early July. Yellow-red blush.	Developed from Yellow Delicious. Quality is good within a narrow window of 2 to 3 weeks. When picked too early it is sour and lacks flavor; picked too late, its texture is mealy. Anna is a self fruitful variety.
Dorsett Golden	100-200 hrs.	Early July. Yellow.	Like Anna it is at its prime for only a few weeks. Slightly sweeter than Anna, it is about the only variety that will bloom at the same time as Anna. Either variety will produce some fruit without cross-pollination but production will be increased if both varieties are planted together.
Fuji	400-600 hrs.	Early August. Yellow-green, red stripes.	In spite of its poor appearance, this is one of the finest quality apples in the world. The tree requires detailed pruning. Most people find it is a poor producer in our area.
Granny Smith	600-800 hrs.	Early August. Waxy green.	Good quality, tart, sweet fruit. Late maturity makes disease control difficult. This variety tends to be a light producer in our area.
Pink Lady	600 - 650 hrs.	Early August Pink-red with yellow base color.	Very vigorous and upright, large wavy-edged leaves. Susceptible to scab and fireblight, fairly susceptible to powdery mildew. Firm, dense, fine flesh, crisp and juicy, excellent flavor.

# Blackberries

**General Information:** Blackberries are very well adapted to Montgomery County. They are an excellent choice for organic gardeners because they have relatively few insect and disease problems. They are self-fruitful therefore they do not require a pollinator. The varieties generally grown in this area are upright and do not require a trellis or other means of support. Blackberries produce on new wood and require pruning every year after all the fruit has been harvested.

Variety	Thorned/Thornless	Remarks/Description
Apache	Thornless	The newest of the blackberries released from the Univ. of Arkansas. The fruit is firm and sweet and ripens later than Arapaho. We don't know enough about this variety to recommend it but it would be worth looking at in a trial planting.
Arapaho	Thornless	An excellent, relatively new release from University of Arkansas. It is a strong upright growing variety producing high quality berries. Navaho and Arapaho were both released the same year but Arapaho appears to be the better variety.
Brazos	Thorned	Brazos is an old variety released by Texas A&M University. It is very productive, producing large berries with large seed. The fruit is quite tart unless harvested when <u>fully</u> ripe.
Kiowa	Thorned	Kiowa is one of the most recent releases from University of Arkansas. The berries are extremely large. The golf ball size fruit has small seed and good quality.
Rosbrough	Thorned	Rosbrough is an improve variety of Brazos developed by Texas A&M University. It is vigorous and upper right producing a heavy crop of sweet, small seeded fruit.
Womack	Thorned	Womack is another Texas A&M University release, similar to Rosbrough, but it has smaller berries.

# Blueberries, Rabbiteye

**General Information:** Rabbiteye blueberries have one of the most demanding cultural requirements of any fruit, but when you provide the right growing conditions you'll find that they almost grow like weeds. When grown well this plant is excellent for the organic gardener. It has few pest or disease problems. Rabbiteye blueberries prefer an extremely acid, sandy soil (pH 4.5-5.8) with good drainage and abundant organic matter. Incorporate a generous amount of organic peat at planting and keep the blueberries heavily mulched. Blueberries are shallow rooted, requiring even moisture throughout the growing season. Blueberries require cross pollination so it is important to plant more than one variety.

Variety	Ripen	Remarks/Description
Aliceblue	Late May	Tall, spreading bush, good for early pick your own growers. Plant Beckyblue as a pollinator.
Beckyblue	Late May	Plants are tall and vigorous. This is one of the earliest and best of the hybrid blueberries. Plant Aliceblue as a pollinator. Fruit is medium blue, medium in size with a small dry stem scar.
Brightwell	June	Plants are upright and spreading. The fruit is medium sized, medium blue with a small dry stem scar. The blueberries are firm and separate easily, making this variety adapted to mechanical harvesting.
Climax	May to late June	Plants are upright and spreading with a medium sized fruit. Seeds are somewhat prominent resulting in a gritty texture.

Delite	Late June to July	Upright plants with a weak leaf canopy. The berries are light blue when ripe, but quality is acceptable even when some red is showing through. This is a good late season berry.
Garden Blue	May to late June	Small, good quality berry. Ripens over a long period of time making an excellent for home gardeners. A strong grower.
Tifblue	June to July	Very vigorous upright plant with many suckers. Fruit is medium to large in size and light blue. Consistent, high quality, high yielding variety.
Woodard	June to July	Plants are medium size and spreading. The fruit is light blue and of excellent quality, but the stem scar is large.

## Citrus

**General Information:** Citrus trees can make an excellent addition to most home landscapes. They are attractive, evergreen trees with fragrant flowers and decorative fruit. They can be planted in the ground in protected areas or grown in large containers on decks or patios. Citrus trees have relatively few problems which makes them an excellent selection for organic gardeners. Scale and white fly are the major pests which are controlled with one of the many horticultural oils currently on the market. They do not require pollinator. Pruning is only required to maintain the shape and size desired. The less you prune the more the trees will produce.

Variety	Cold Tolerance	Remarks/Description
Kumquats	20 - 24 degrees F.	Meiwa is the preferred variety. It is round with few seeds and it is much sweeter than Nagami. Nagami is an elongated fruit; and the one most commonly found at the grocery market.
Mandarins	22 - 28 degrees F.	This is a large group which includes satsumas (the most commonly planted citrus in the lower South) and tangerines. Kimbrough, Owari and Armstrong Early are excellent satsumas.
Sour Fruits	20 - 28 degrees F.	The Thomasville Citragenquat makes an attractive tree with small, ornamental orange fruit. The fruit is sour, slipskin and very good for lemonade-type drinks.
Sweet Orange	25 - 28 degrees F.	Page and Republic of Texas are two varieties that could be grown in protected locations in Montgomery County. It would be best to plan for winter protection because they will quite often receive enough cold to cause damage.

## Figs

**General Information:** Figs are excellent fruit for the Montgomery County area. Their easy care and relative freedom from disease and insects make them an excellent selection for the organic gardener. Major problems include fig rust which causes leaf spot and late summer defoliation is the primary symptoms but little can be done to control it. Nematodes are another problem on figs. It causes slow growth and some leaf drop. Heavy mulching and even watering help relieve this problem.

Variety	Ripe/Color	Remarks/Description
Alma	Late June, Light yellow.	Fair quality, fruit has a drop of honey in the eye, reducing damage from the fruit beetle

Celeste	June and July. Purplish brown.	Still probably th best-quality fig grown in the South. It has a complex sweetness and leaves a pleasant aftertaste. It also has a closed eye. Unfortunately it is somewhat susceptible to cold and normally bears on last year s wood. A hard freeze or overzealous pruning can destroy this season s crop.
Green Ischia	July and August green with red flesh	Good quality fruit but the tree is only moderately productive. The eye partially dosed so the fruit beetle is not too damaging and the green color is less attractive to birds.
LSU Purple	July August purple with red flesh	A Louisiana variety that produces very attractive large, purple, closed eye figs on vigorous up right plants. This variety produces a good crop of figs on new growth so it can be pruned heavily.
Magnolia	July and August reddish brown with pink flesh	Grown primarily as a fig for preserves. The fruit is large but has an open eye, as a result, is susceptible to dried fruit beetle. Relatively hardy and bears a good crop on new growth so it can be prune heavily.
Texas Everbearing	July and August, Brown w/ Amber flesh.	Large fig with a closed eye. Best for preserves. Produces on current season s growth. Usually produces two crops per season.

## Grapes

**General Information:** Grapes are a little more demanding than other fruit, requiring training, trellis support and regular applications of fungicide. One of the biggest problems facing grape growers in Montgomery County is Pierce s Disease. If you decide to grow susceptible varieties be prepared for grape plants to be relatively short lived. Generally the better quality grades are susceptible limiting production to a few wine and jelly varieties. Bunch grapes are self fruitful.

Variety	Pierce s Resistant	Color/Type	Remarks/Description
Black Spanish (Lenoir)	Resistant	Black/Seeded	Very productive variety for wine or jelly production. The eating quality is poor. Plants are vigorous and easily managed.
Blanc du Bois	Resistant	White /Seeded	This variety is capable of producing award-winning wines. It is especially susceptible to anthracnose. Not recommended for fresh eating.
Champanel	Resistant	Black /Seeded	Small clusters of large, poor quality grapes utilize primarly for wine and jelly. An excellent variety for arbors because it is very vigorous and disease resistant.
Favorite	Resistant	Blue-black /Seeded	Apparently a seedling of Black Spanish with larger grapes and grape clusters and a slightly better quality.
Jupiter	Susceptible	Reddish blue to blue/Seedless	One of the best of the blue table grapes released from University of Arkansas. It produces medium to large clusters of large thin skinned grapes with excellent flavor and 20% soluble solids. Other blue releases include: Mars, Sunbelt, Venus
Lake Emerald	Resistant	Green/Seeded	This variety has large fruit clusters, but only moderate production. Good disease resistance.
Neptune	Susceptible	Green/Seedless	This Arkansas release produces large clusters of medium size green berries with a fruity, pleasant flavor with 19.7% soluble solids.

Red Flame	Susceptible	Reddish pink/ Seedless	A good flavored, very popular table grape. Ruby Seedless is another high quality red table grape similar but more productive than Red Flame.
Reliance	Susceptible	Pink/Seedless	This is the highest rated in flavor of the Arkansas varieties with up to 24% soluble solids. The clusters are medium to large with medium to small berries. Another reddish pink variety from Arkansas is Saturn.
Verdelet (Seibel 2110)	Moderate Resistance	White/ Partially Seedless	One of the early French hybrids. It produces a yellow - gold desserts quality wine. Fair quality as a fresh grape.

## Grapes, Muscadines

**General Information:** Muscadines are native to much of the Southeastern United States. In the last 50 years we've seen numerous new varieties come on the market. Tremendous strides have been made in quality including color, sugar content and skin thickness. There has even been the development of seedless varieties. It should be noted that some muscadine varieties produce only female flowers and must be planted with self fruitful varieties to ensure good pollination. There are far too many varieties to discuss them all. Those listed below are either well known standard varieties or new, high quality varieties.

Variety	Female/Self Fertile	Color/% Sugar	Remarks/Description
Black Beauty	Female	Black/23%	A very large fruited variety with an edible skin. The large fruit ripen uniformly, produced in large clusters. This is one of the best black varieties.
Black Fry	Female	Black/19%	A very productive, good quality grape that produces large clusters that ripen uniformly. Ripen this early to mid-season.
Carlos	Self Fertile	Bronze/16%	This grape is medium size, good quality and ripens early to mid season. It is very productive and excellent for wine making.
Cowart	Self Fertile	Black/17%	This variety has excellent flavor, large clusters of medium size grapes. It is very productive and ripens early in the season.
Darlene	Female	Bronze/22%	The best of the bronze muscadines. It consistently produces large high quality fruit on vigorous vines.
Fry	Female	Bronze/21%	A high quality large fruit that produces large clusters. This variety ripens over a long period of time.
Hunt	Female	Black/17%	This older variety produces medium size grapes in large clusters. It is a good quality variety excellent for jams, jelly, cold pressed juice and wine and ripens early in the season.
Ison	Self Fertile	Black/19%	A very productive, uniform ripening variety, producing large clusters of black grapes, early to mid-season.
Jumbo	Female	Black/15%	A very good quality grape if allowed to fully ripen. Jumbo produces a vigorous vine and ripens early to mid-season.

Pam	Female	Bronze/	Pam has the largest clusters of grapes in production. It is the heaviest producing female variety. It has an edible skin, dry scar and good disease resistance.
Rosa	Female	Pinkish Red/18%	Rosa is the best of the red grapes. It produces very sweet, good quality grapes on a very vigorous vine. Excellent for home use or pick your own.
Scuppernong	Female	Bronze/17%	Scuppernong is known all over for its strong, distinctive muscadine flavor. It produces small clusters of medium size grapes in mid-season.
Summit	Female	Red/20%	This older variety has excellent quality and production.

## Nectarines

**General Information:** See peaches.

Variety	Chill Requirement	Ripe/Color	Remarks/Description
Double Delight	700-800 hrs.	July, dark red, yellow fleshed freestone	Attractive semi double pink flowers, plus good quality fruit makes this an excellent tree for homeowners.
Fantasia	650-750 hrs.	Late July. Red over yellow, yellow-fleshed, freestone	Wonderful flavor but unattractive fruit.
Karla Rose	600 - 700 hrs.	June. Mostly red, yellow-fleshed clingstone.	Good quality but very small unless thinned a lot. Some disease problems.
Mayglo	500-600 hrs.	Late May, red, yellow fleshed cling	Fair to good quality. Nice round shape, burgundy red color.
Snow Queen	650 - 750 hrs.	Early to mid-June. Dull red over pale yellow, white-flesh. Clingstone.	Extremely high-quality fruit. Not real pretty but large with unforgettable flavor.
Sun Glo	850 hrs.	Late July. Red/yellow, yellow-fleshed, freestone.	Large, round and pretty. Great taste.

# Peaches

**General Information:** Peaches (Nectarines) are one of the more challenging fruits to grow. They require perfect drainage. Even very short periods of water saturated soil can cause tree death. Peaches are also affected by a number of serious disease and insect problems which means they require frequent and regular applications insecticide and fungicide. This is not a good fruit for the organic gardener. Tree should be planted in full sun. It is not necessary to plant more than one variety because peaches are self fruitful.

Variety	Chill Requirement	Ripe/Color	Remarks/Description
Flordaking	450 hrs.	Mid-May. Clingstone.	Earliest peach in this listing. Large fruit. Only average quality.
June Gold	600-650 hrs.	Late May to early June, yellow with red blush, yellow flesh	Quality is only fair to good. Fruit may produce a prominent point on the tip.
Juneprince	600-700 hrs.	Mid-June, red blush over yellow, yellow flesh, semi freestone.	One of the highest flavored varieties for this season. Round shape with a small nipple.
La Feliciana	550 - 600 hrs.	Late June. Yellow-fleshed freestone	Has been widely tested in the South. Quality is good to excellent.
Mid-Pride	300-400 hrs	Mid to late June, yellow orange with distinctive red striping, yellow fleshed freestone.	One of the few California varieties that shows promise for the south. Good tree vigor, good to excellent fruit quality. Blooms later than many other low chill varieties.
Redskin	700 - 800 hrs.	Mid to late July. Red over yellow. Yellow-fleshed freestone.	Very high quality. Long bloom period.
Red Baron	500 - 600 hrs.	Mid June to early July. Yellow with red blush. Yellow-fleshed, semi- freestone.	Beautiful pinkish-red, semidouble flowers and high quality fruit that ripens over an extended harvest period.
Scarlet Robe	400 hrs.	Late June. Yellow fruit, yellow -fleshed.	Superb flavor and texture. Reported to have some resistance to brown rot.
Sentinel	650 - 750 hrs.	Early to mid-June. Dark red blush over yellow. Yellow-fleshed, semi-cling.	Excellent quality fruit, good flavor and texture. Very productive, resistant to bacterial leaf spot.
Suwanee	650 hrs.	July. Yellow fruit. Yellow-gold flesh with red markings around pit. Freestone.	Excellent quality, attractive fruit.
TexRoyal	600 hrs.	Mid to late June. Bright yellow with red blush. Yellow-fleshed, freestone.	A recent release from Texas A&M University. High quality with a good rounded form. Better quality than the semi-cling stone variety Texstar.
TexStar	200 - 300 hrs.	Mid-June. Yellow, semi-cling stone.	Often produces a pointed tip, fair to good quality. Sets many blooms over an extended period making it a good hedge against frosts.

## Pears (European & Asian)

**General Information:** Pears are an excellent southern fruit. They re very well adapted to the southern environment as long as varieties selected have good resistance to bacterial fire blight. This is an excellent fruit for the organic gardener. It is important to plant more than one variety in order to get good cross pollination and fruit set. Pear trees can get large so be sure to provide them with plenty of space. Pear trees are adapted to a wide range of soil types as long as the drainage is adequate. Try to avoid wet spots or low lying areas. Trees will generally take 5 -7 years to come into production.

European Pear Varieties	Chill Requirement	Ripe/Color	Remarks/Description
Kieffer	300 - 400 hrs.	September - October. Yellow, rough skin with some blush.	Large, coarse pear used mainly for canning because of its hardness and grit cells. May be stored for several months. Slight musty flav or which adds character to pear butter and other foods. Tolerates fire flight.
Le Conte	300 - 400 hrs.	August. Attractive yellow pear	Above average, fresh eating quality, rather susceptible to fire blight. Typical pear shape.
Orient	300-400 hrs.	August. Yellow and somewhat russeted	Hard, large, round pear of fair to good quality with good blight resistance. Best for processing.
Pineapple	150 or less hrs.	August. Large yellow fruit.	Reported to have a pineapple like flav or. Store for fresh use or use for processing. Fruit are large unless tree is allowed to over bear.
Tenn. (Tennessee)	200-400 hrs.	August. Red blush with some russeting.	Medium-sized and somewhat rounded bell shape. Shows good blight resistance and has good to excellent quality fruit.
Warren	600-800 hrs.	August. Pale green. Not russeted.	Very high quality fruit. Trees are slow to begin bearing (10-15 years) and leaf spot can be severe. Resistant to fire blight.
Asian Pear Varieties	Chill Requirement	Ripe/Color	Remarks/Description
Hosui	400-500 hrs.	August. Brownish-orange with russet.	Crisp with more flavor compared to other Asian varieties. Has shown considerable blight in recent years but still produces crops. Whether this variety can live with the disease like some others (Kieffer for example) remains to be seen.
Kikusui	500 hrs.	August. Greenish-yellow.	This variety doesn t store well but the fruit is crisp, sweet and juicy.
Kosui	500 - 600 hrs.	Late July-August, yellow russeted	Small fruit with very sweet taste.
Shinseiki	600 - 800 hrs.	August, yellow green	Medium size fruit with a very mild flav or. The fruit hangs on the tree in good condition and store as well. Very large and vigorous tree with healthy foliage.

# Pecans

**General Information:** Pecans are one of a more challenging of the fruit/nut trees for homeowners to grow. They require frequent applications a fungicide, insecticide and zinc. I generally recommend that homeowners plant the most disease resistant varieties available, plan on growing them only for landscape purposes and then plan on production only in those years when environmental conditions are favorable. The trees get too large for the average homeowner to provide an adequate protective spray. Varieties listed below were selected primarily for their disease resistance not nut size or quality. You need to plant both an early and late pollen release variety to ensure good cross pollination.

Variety	Pollen Release	Harvest / % Kernel / Nuts per lb.	Remarks/ Description
Caddo	Early	Early/50%/60 - 70	One of the most scab resistant varieties currently available. Only average production of small football shaped nuts.
Candy	Late	Early/48%/66	Produces small but very high quality nuts. Has good disease resistance.
Choctaw	Late	Mid-season /55-60%/35 - 40	Choctaw is a very popular variety. It tends to split during harvest. It has good scab resistance and an attractive kernel.
Elliot	Late	Early/55%/40	Elliot is considered to be one of the most disease resistant varieties for the Southeast. It produces small but very high quality, light colored kernels. Trees are slow to begin producing but produces a consistent crop once old enough.
Forkert	Late	Mid-season/60%/50	High quality kernels and good disease resistance are this varieties chief attributes.
Jackson	Early to self fertile	Mid-season/60%/42	This is a large pecan . Overall it has high quality and good scab resistance. Yields are about half what a good commercial variety produces so as a result, it is primarily used for home production.
Kiawa	Late	Mid- season/55-60%/40-50	This variety has good disease resistance and large nut size. Trees are productive at a young age.
Melrose	Late	Mid- season/55%/55	This variety has excellent resistance to pecans scab. It produces high quality nuts with excellent size and color. The nuts are somewhat pointed at both ends.
Oconee	Early	Early/54%/48	This variety was released because of its large size, good production, high quality and easily cracked kernel. Oconee will require fungicide sprays to control scab. Trees produce at an early age.
Pawnee	Early	Early/55-60%/55-60	A large, high quality pecan that produces on young trees . Potential for high yields on a tree with some disease resistance and apparent aphid resistance.
Sumner	LateLate	Mid- season/50-55%/55-60 Mid-season/50-55%/55-60	This variety comes into production at an early age, producing medium size nuts with good disease resistance and excellent quality.
Surprise	Early	Mid- season/49%/40-45	A seedlings from Alabama. This variety has good scab resistance and consistent production even in bad years.

## Persimmons (Asian)

**General Information:** Persimmons are a well adapted fruit for the southern climate. They have relatively few insect and disease problems and could fit easily into an organically grown program. They are generally divided into three groups: Astringent - fruit will make you pucker unless it is fully ripe and soft. Non-astringent - fruit may be harvested and used as soon as it develops a fully orange color. It can be done while still firm. Pollen Variant - fruit will be non-astringent if pollinated. Many varieties of persimmons will produce seedless fruit if not pollinated.

Variety	A/N/PV*	Ripe/Color	Remarks/Description
Chocolate	A, PV	September. Orange with dark, flecked brown flesh.	Considered one of the best flavored. Also very productive. Acorn shaped.
Fuyu	N	October & November. Orange with light orange flesh.	The standard by which (N) varieties are judged. Crisp flesh, sweet with complex flavors. Fruit can be eaten over a long period of time. Fruit has a flattened tomato shape and requires thinning to develop good size.
Hachiya	A	October & November. Orange with orange flesh.	This is one of the most widely planted (A) varieties. Large acorn-shaped fruit on a vigorous, spreading tree. This makes an attractive landscape tree. Bright orange-bronze fall color. Fruit are only average quality.
Honan Red	A	October & November.	Relatively small-fruited Chinese variety. Shape is long and conical.
Ichikikei Jiro	N	September. Orange with orange flesh.	The fruit is large, flat and of very good quality. Tree is somewhat dwarf.
Izu	N	August & September. Orange with orange flesh.	Good quality, medium-sized fruit. One of the earliest (N) varieties. The sugar content (15% - 17% soluble solids) is lower compared to later varieties like Suruga (over 20%).
Saijo	A	September & October. Yellowish-orange with orange flesh.	A vigorous, upright tree producing large crops of elongated, acorn-shaped fruit. When fully ripe they are of very high quality with a sugar content of 22% or more. Can be eaten fresh or dried.
Suruga	N	November & December. Orange-red fruit with orange flesh.	This is one of the latest ripening (N) varieties. The fruit is often very large and is delicious while still crisp. Considered by many to be the best quality persimmon grown.
Tamopan	A	November & December. Reddish-orange with orange flesh.	One of the older varieties with distinctive constricted band around the fruit. Only fair quality.

\* A = Astringent

N = Non-astringent

PV = Pollination Variant

## Plums

**General Information:** Plums are much more forgiving than peaches or nectarines. Plums will benefit from an occasional application of insecticide and fungicide, but do not require as many applications as peaches or nectarines. Many varieties are self fruitful but most will benefit by having a pollinator present. The biggest problem facing plum growers in Montgomery County is Bacterial Canker. This disease is fatal. Best control can be achieved by cleaning all pruning equipment prior to and after pruning each tree with chlorine bleach. The disease is primarily spread through pruning cuts.

Variety	Chill Requirement	Ripe/Color	Remarks/Description
Au Rosa	400 hrs.	June. Purplish red, amber flesh.	Santa Rosa-type with some disease resistance.
Beauty	300 hrs.	May to early June, reddish purple with yellow flesh.	Like most Japanese varieties developed in California in is susceptible to leaf spot and leaf scorch. Fruit quality is good.
Byron Gold	400 - 500 hrs.	June. Golden yellow, yellow flesh.	Fair quality, but most yellow plums are rather tasteless. The tree is disease resistant and a good grower. Fruit is very attractive.
Mariposa	200 - 300 hrs.	June, greenish bronze, with burgundy red flesh	Excellent quality fruit, unfortunately it is not very pretty. It is a California variety, but the trees stay fairly healthy when planted in the South.
Methley	200 hrs.	May. Small, reddish purple fruit, burgundy flesh color.	Excellent quality but rapidly develops a jellylike texture when too ripe. Self fertile. Good disease tolerance.
Robusto	600 hrs.	June. Red skin and red flesh.	Fruit of medium firmness. Dependable crops. Excellent tree health.
Santa Rosa	400 hrs.	June. Medium-large, purplish red. Flesh yellow with red near skin.	An excellent quality fruit. Susceptible to bacterial canker. Fairly self fertile and a good pollinator for other varieties.

## Pomegranates

**General Information:** This is considered a minor fruit in our area. The trees tend to produce poorly in areas where there is high humidity during the growing season. This fruit is much better adapted to a dry, arid climates. Pomegranates make an excellent ornamentals with the possibility of producing edible fruit. Trees are vigorous and free from most disease and insect problems.

Variety	Remarks/Description
Cloud	Cloud produces medium size fruit with a green red color. The pulp around the seeds is clear producing a sweet almost clear juice.
Fleishman	Large, rounded fruit, about 3 in. in diameter , pink out side and in. Very sweet flavor, seeds relatively soft, quality very good.
Wonderful	Originated in Florida . Large, deep purple- red, thick rind fruit. Flesh is deep crimson and color, juicy and of a delicious flavor.

## Raspberries

**General Information:** There is always someone who insists on growing plants that are not adapted to the area. Raspberries fit into this category. They require a milder summer and colder winter than we receive. As a result we tend to settle on varieties with poor quality or varieties that do not produce well but at least produce something. Varieties listed below are at best marginal for the area. Those wanting to grow raspberries like they grew back home probably need to move back home because they won't produce here.

Variety	Harvest Season	Remarks/ Description
Bababerry	May-June and September-December	A good tasting red berry with a waxy bloom. Has produced excellent crops in Southern California, but has yet to prove a commercial success in the South.
Dorman Red	June	This is by far the strongest grower for the South. It is also a good producer, but the quality is poor. It is a red variety as are all of the raspberries that will grow in the South.
Heritage	September-December	Heritage has produced fairly well along the Upper Gulf Coast especially during the fall season. If provided with afternoon shade, mulch, lots of fertility and organic matter, it seems to have at least some home garden potential. It produces excellent quality fruit.
Redwing	September-December	An offspring of Heritage that would be worth trying for fall production in the South.
San Diego	June-July and September-December	A Southern California variety worth trying in the South. Difficult to locate.

## Strawberries

**General Information:** Strawberries are best grown in Montgomery County using the annual method. This means planting new plants each year in October, fertilizing through the winter, producing a crop, removing the plants and preparing the bed for next fall. Strawberries have a number of serious disease problems so care should be taken to keep the soil as clean as possible. Strawberries grow best in a sandy soil with a generous layer of mulch to help protect the shallow roots. One strawberry plant will generally produce one pint to one quart of fruit per season.

Variety	Remarks/ Description
Chandler	Probably the best strawberry for the Gulf Coast and lower south. It is a productive and attractive variety with firm flesh. The Red fruit color extends into the berries center. Quality is fair to good.
Selva	A vigorous, day neutral variety. Day neutral varieties produce primarily in the early spring. Quality is good.
Seascape	Seascape produces very large, high quality berries.
Sequoia	Large, high quality berries but production is often low. Berries are very soft and must be eaten soon after harvest. Does not ship well.

Last Revised, December 27, 2002