



Selecting Fruit Trees for Alameda

How to choose trees that will thrive and bear fruit.

By Marla Koss and Birgitt Evans

What to Plant? Some Considerations

- What do you like to eat?
- What will you do with the fruit?
- How much sunny space do you have?
- When does the tree fruit?
- How much care does the tree need and when?
- Do you like the taste of a certain variety?



Other Considerations

- Pollinizers – Some trees are self-fertile, but many require the pollen from another variety to set fruit.
- Chill Hours – Many trees require a certain number of hours between 33 and 45 degrees F in order to break dormancy evenly.
- Pest Animals – Who else wants to snack on your fruit? How to outsmart them (yes, really!).
- When does it bloom? Early blooms can be wiped out by rains.



Tree Sizes & Types

- Fruit trees grow into a varied number of sizes and shapes, depending on natural tendency and/or amount of pruning. There may not be much that can be done to make a normally narrow-shaped pear tree grow into a spreading beauty.
- Trees can come in dwarf, semi-dwarf or standard sizes but unless they are reined in by good pruning, some semi-dwarf cultivars can grow out of size. The notable exception to this is citrus, which do maintain their expected size.



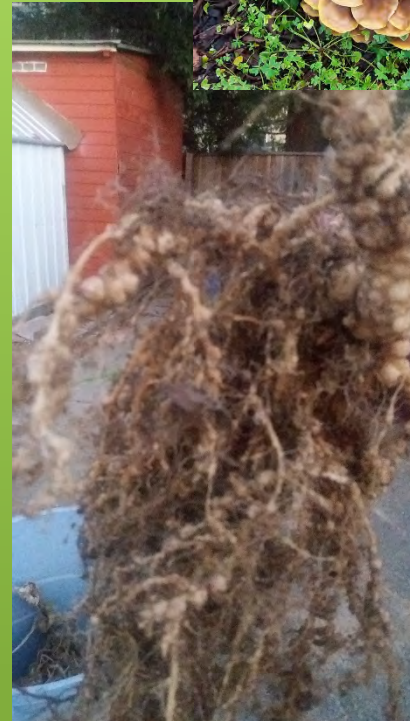
Multi-Budded or Fruit Salad Trees

- A multi-budded fruit tree is 2 to 5 different cultivars grafted onto a special rootstock and trunk.
- Usually the cultivars are of the same species, but not always. Sometimes different fruit types like plums, pluots and apricots may be grafted together.
- These trees require a lot of attention and maintenance from experienced hands, since each graft may have a different level of vigor.



Rootstocks

- Except for figs and feijoas, the root system is grafted onto the fruit tree variety you have brought home. The type of rootstock is critical for the survival of the tree, and the type of rootstock depends on your soil conditions.
- Rootstocks control the size of the tree, help stave off diseases, can improve the vigor, precociousness and/or the quality of the fruit.
- Some rootstocks are susceptible to soil-borne diseases common to our backyard dirt in Alameda.



Lemons — Meyer, Eureka, Lisbon

- Ripens: February - May
- Lifespan: Up to 50 years.
- Can Produce: 50 - 150 lbs
- Ease of Care: Moderate
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: Dwarf 6 -10', Standard 20–30'
- Heat: Heat not required to ripen fruit.
- Chill Hours: Not required.



Oranges - Trovita

- Ripens: Spring
- Lifespan: Up to 50 years.
- Can Produce: 50 lbs
- Ease of Care: Moderate
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: 6 – 10' Dwarf, 20 – 30' Standard
- Heat: Need heat to sweeten fruit. Trovita is the exception.
- Chill Hours: Not required



Tangerines/Mandarins – Owari Satsuma, Dancy Tangerine, W Murcott Mandarin

- Ripens: December - March
- Lifespan: 50 years
- Can Produce: 50 – 100 lbs
- Ease of Care: Moderate
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: 6 – 10' Dwarf,
20 – 30' Standard
- Heat: Need heat to sweeten
fruit.
- Chill Hours: Not Required



Limes – Bearss, Mexican Thornless

- Ripens: Fall
- Lifespan: 50 years
- Can Produce: 50 lbs
- Ease of Care: Moderate
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: 6 – 10' Dwarf, 20 – 30' Standard
- Heat: Heat not required to ripen fruit.
- Chill Hours: Not required



Apricots — Blenheim, Katy, Gold Kist, Earli-Autumn

- Ripens: Late May – August
- Lifespan: 20 – 25 years
- Can Produce: 50 – 150 lbs
- Ease of Care: Moderate
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: Dwarf:
Standard 15 – 20'
- How Much Heat: Moderate
to ripen fruit
- Chill Hours: 200 - 700



Plums – Santa Rosa, Burgundy, Inca

- Ripens: June - September
- Lifespan: 25 - 30 years
- Can Produce: 50 – 300 lbs
- Ease of Care: Moderate
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: 10 – 12' Semi-Dwarf (pruned), 16 - 20' (unpruned)
- How Much Heat: Low to Moderate
- Chill Hours: 250 - 800



Peaches — Donut (Stark Saturn), La Feliciano, Babcock, July (Kim) Elberta

- Ripens: Mid-June - September
- Lifespan: 20 – 25 years
- Can Produce: 50 – 300 lbs
- Ease of Care: Most
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: 4-5' Miniature, 8 – 10' Semi-Dwarf, 25' Standard
- How Much Heat: Moderate to high to sweeten fruit.
- Chill Hours: 200 – 1,000



Nectarines — Necta Zee Dwarf, Snow Queen, Goldmine

- Ripens: June - September
- Lifespan: 15 – 25 years
- Can Produce: 100 – 250 lbs
- Ease of Care: Most
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: Dwarf 4 -10',
10 – 12' Semi-Dwarf,
25' Standard
- How Much Heat: Moderate
to high heat.
- Chill Hours: 100 - 800



Asian Pears – 20th Century, Shinseiki, Hosui

- Ripens: July - September
- Lifespan: 15 – 25 years
- Can Produce: 50 – 70 lbs
- Ease of Care: Most Work
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: 8 – 15' Dwarf, 20 – 25' Standard
- How Much Heat: Moderate
- Chill Hours: 250 - 800



Pears – Bartlett, Comice, Hood, Seckel, Warren

- Ripens: July - October
- Lifespan: 20 - 40 years
- Can Produce: 100 – 300 lbs
- Ease of Care: Most Work
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: 8 – 10' Dwarf, 18 - 20' Standard
- How Much Heat: Moderate
- Chill Hours: 100 – 800



Apples – Anna, Fuji, Pettingill, Pink Lady, White Winter Pearmain, Granny Smith

- Ripens: July - November
- Lifespan: 40 – 200 years
- Can Produce: 200 – 800 lbs
- Ease of Care: Most Work
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: 6 – 12' Dwarf, 14 – 22' Semi-Dwarf, 30' Standard
- How Much Heat: Low to Moderate
- Chill Hours: 100 – 1,000+



Feijoa (Pineapple Guava)

– Coolidge, Nazemetz

- Ripens: October
- Lifespan: 50+ years
- Can Produce: 25 -100 lbs
- Ease of Care: Easy
- Rootstock: Own
- Size of Tree: Large shrub or multi-trunk tree to 15 - 25'
- How Much Heat: Low to moderate
- Chill Hours: Not required



Figs — Violette de Bordeaux, Osborne Prolific, White Genoa

- Ripens: Late August – Early November
- Lifespan: 50+ years
- Can Produce: 10 – 80 lbs
- Ease of Care: Easy
- Rootstock: Own
- Size of Tree: 15 – 40'
- How Much Heat: Moderate to high
- Chill Hours: 200 hours



Persimmons – Izu, Fuyu (Jiro), Hachiya

- Ripens: October - December
- Lifespan: 30 - 50 years
- Can Produce: 100 – 300 lbs
- Ease of Care: Easy
- Rootstock: Grafted
- Size of Tree: 20 – 40'
- How Much Heat: Moderate
- Chill Hours: under 200



Be sure to select a tree or trees that:

- Will grow well in your yard.
- Will set and ripen fruit for you regularly.
- Will not succumb to disease.
- That produce fruit that you enjoy eating fresh or can put up for winter.
- That will give you fruit for many months.

