



FRUIT TREES FOR YOLO COUNTY

TREE SIZE

Fruit trees in a family orchard require annual pruning to maintain tree size and allow light to developing fruit and next year's buds. The height of standard size trees can be controlled through pruning. The height should not exceed 12 to 14 feet. They can then be easily pruned and picked with a 10-foot ladder. Standard size trees need space so they should be planted 15 to 20 feet apart.

Dwarf trees can usually be kept to a height of 10 feet. These are usually varieties that are grafted onto a dwarfing rootstock. The most research has been done with dwarfing rootstock for apples. Dwarf cherries are not very satisfactory.

True genetic dwarfs usually attain a height of 3 to 8 feet. The fruit quality of genetic dwarf peaches, nectarines, apricot, and plums are generally considered inferior.

POLLINATION

Self-fertile indicates a tree can pollinate itself. Some pears and plums, and most peaches, nectarines, apricots, and sour cherries are self-fertile. Apples, sweet cherries, almonds, and many pears and plums need another variety for cross-pollination. Generally, honeybees are also required to transfer pollen between trees and blossoms.

VARIETIES

APPLE- Red Astrachan, Gravenstein, White Astrachan, Golden Delicious, Gala and Granny Smith need pollinators. The Gravenstein is a poor pollinator that when planted requires two other varieties for all to produce. Gala and Granny Smith are late harvest. Note: Consider only rootstocks East Malling IX (EMIX), Malling 26 (M26), Malling Merton 106 (MMI 06)

APRICOT-Royal or Blenheim do not like temperatures above 100° F at harvest. Patterson doesn't pit burn from hot temperatures at harvest like Royal does. Flora Gold, a genetic dwarf, will still grow to 10-12 feet. Tilton is good for hot summers but needs 1000 hours of below 45° F in the winter. Note: Many apricots are self-fertile. Plums and peaches can be grafted onto limbs to produce several fruits on the same tree.

CHERRY-Black Tartarian or Larian are early bearing (any sweet cherry will pollinate these). Bing will harvest mid-season (use Sam, Van or Black Tartarian as pollinator). Stella is self-pollinating and late harvest. Garden Bing, a mid-season, genetic dwarf, is self-pollinating, and will grow to 8 feet in the ground (can be kept to a few feet in container). Note: All sweet cherries but Stella and Garden Bing require cross-pollination. Bing, Lambert, and Royal Ann will not pollinate each other.



PEARS-Moonglow harvests in early season and resists fireblight. Magness will harvest midseason, highly resists fireblight, and does not pollinate any other varieties. Kieffer is fireblight resistant, but the flesh is gritty, so it not good to eat fresh. It needs low winter chill and will grow well in our heat. Barlett and Cornice have excellent fruit but are fireblight susceptible. California has excellent flavor, and is semi resistant to fireblight; however, the fruit can be variable in shape. Note: Most pears need pollinators. Magness does not pollinate anything. Barlett and California will set without cross-pollination.

NECTARINE-Independence is early season, Flavortop and Fantasia are mid-season, and Flamekist and Fairlane are late season nectarines. All do well here even in low chilling years. Genetic dwarf nectarines Nectarina, Garden Beauty, Garden Delight and Garden King all do well in this area.

PEACHES-Flavorcrest, and Springcrest are both early season semi-freestone peaches. Suncrest and July Elberta ripen midseason. Fay Elberta and O'Henry are large freestone peaches that ripen late season. Genetic dwarfs Bonanza, Empress, and Garden Gold will grow in this area. Note: Totally satisfactory dwarfing rootstock for peaches has yet to be found although there are true genetic dwarf varieties available. All peaches do best with cold winters, warm dry springs, and hot summers.

PLUMS-Santa Rosa is a self-fruitful, low chill plum that ripens early. July Santa Rosa or Laroda ripen early midseason (for Laroda use Santa Rosa or Late Santa Rosa as pollinator). Late Santa Rosa and Queen Ann ripen late mid-season. Cassleman is a self-pollinating late season ripening plum.

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