

Growing Temperate Tree Fruit and Nut Crops in the Home Garden and Landscape

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Varieties for Planting in the Home Garden

Where you live (your "climate zone") will determine which varieties of temperate tree fruit and nut crops will perform best in your home garden, when fruits and nuts are harvested, and which pest and disease problems are more common. This table describes *selected* varieties that are suitable for home gardeners in California. The number of varieties could easily be doubled or tripled if all heirloom varieties and newer varieties available at nurseries or through mail order were included.

Certain varieties are superb eaten fresh. Other varieties tend to be used more often for cooking, canning, and freezing. Experts do not always agree about which varieties are best suited for various uses because individual tastes differ. Thus, the comments in the table regarding these issues are offered as points of interest only, not as official advice endorsed by the UC.

Quince

(*Cydonia oblonga* Mill.)

Quince fruits grow on a small tree or shrub (8-12 ft tall) with twisted, bumpy branches. Grown as a flowering ornamental or for fruit processing. Adapted to many climates. Tolerates "wet feet" better than most other deciduous fruit trees. Quince trees bloom late, which means that they avoid spring frosts. Quinces have many of the same pest problems as apple and pear. Varieties are self-fruitful. Used as a dwarfing rootstock for pear.

- **Champion** - Green-yellow flesh. Pear-shaped fruit.
- **Orange** - Orange-yellow flesh. Golden skin. Rich flavor. Low chill fruit.
- **Pineapple** - The preferred variety. Pineapple flavor. White flesh. Golden skin. Low chill fruit
- **Smyrna** - Large fruit with brown pubescence. Light, tender flesh. Yellow skin. Low chill fruit.
- **Van Deman** - Pale yellow, coarse flesh. Orange skin that turns red when cooked.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Champion	Early Oct.	Early Oct.	October	October	October	Early Oct.
Orange	Early Sept.	Early Sept.	September	September	September	Early Sept.
Pineapple	Early Oct.	Early Oct.	October	October	October	Early Oct.
Smyrna	Early Oct.	Early Oct.	October	October	October	Early Oct.
Van Deman	Early Sept.	Early Sept.	September	September	September	Early Sept.