

Fruit trees and vines

Apples

Anders Apple

Medium to large. Greenish-yellow base with red striping. Crisp, white flesh is sweet, tangy, flavorful. Excellent all-purpose apple. Green, reminds you of Granny Smith. Ripe, reminds you of Fuji. Said to be codling moth resistant. Holds 3+ months!

Braeburn Apple

Late season, crisp and tangy, similar to Granny Smith but richer flavor. Excellent keeper. Green with dark red blush. October-November harvest. Self-fruitful.

Fuji Apple

Sweet, crisp and flavorful, excellent keeper. Late September. Excellent pollinizer for other apple varieties. Self-fruitful.

Gala Apple

Dessert apple: crisp, sweet, tart; rich flavor. Skin reddish-orange over yellow. Mid - late August. Good pollinizer for other varieties. Self-fruitful. DW '05

Granny Smith Apple

Bright green skin, tart/sweet flavor, great texture. For eating, cooking, sauce. October - November harvest.

Gravenstein Apple

The applesauce apple, also great for cooking. Fine for fresh eating if picked a little underripe. Late July - August harvest. Sets larger crops if another type of apple is nearby.

Honeycrisp Apple

"Scarlet red over yellow background. Sweet/tart flavor. Texture like a crisp watermelon or Asian pear, 'explosively crisp, fun to eat' and very juicy. Keeps very well. Fruit very large." September. [LEC] Pollinize with any other apple. May not take our heat well.

Apricots

Blenheim (Royal) Apricot

The standard, with delicious juicy fruit. Very early in this area--late May - June.

Harcot Apricot

Excellent flavor and quality. Large, sweet, juicy, rich flavor. Brown rot resistant. Mid-June. Has stopped producing in this area, perhaps because of chilling hours. Not recommended.

Royal Apricot

Said to be the same as Blenheim. The standard, with delicious juicy fruit. Very early in this area--late May - June.

Aprium

Flavor Delight Aprium

What an apricot should taste like. This cross between the apricot and the plum preceded the pluots and has been overshadowed by them in popularity. Like a rich, tangy apricot. Self-fruitful.

Avocadoes

Bacon

Mexican. Hardy to 24F. Flower type B. Good flavor, oil content 16%. Oct - Jan ripening.

Fuerte

Hybrid. Hardy to 26F. Flower type B. Excellent flavor, oil content >18%, Nov - March ripening.

Jim

Mexican. Hardy to 24F. Flower type B. Very good flavor, 18% oil content, Nov - Feb. ripening.

Mexicola

Mexican. Hardy to 20F or lower. Flower type A. Good flavor, oil content 20%, Sept - Nov ripening.

Mexicola Grande

Mexican. Hardy to 18 - 22F. Flower type A. Good flavor, 18% oil content, ripening Aug - Oct.

Stewart

Mexican. Hardy to 24F. Flower type B according to CFRG, Orange County branch, A according to Dave Wilson Nursery. Very good flavor, oil content 18%, ripening Oct - Dec.

Zutano

Mexican. Hardy to 24F. Flower type B. Good flavor, 16% oil content, Oct - Feb. ripening period.

Avocadoes, Guatemalan

Hass

Guatemalan Tender. Not recommended here. Flower type A

Berries--Blackberry

Boysenberry, thornless

Very large fruit, very productive. Reddish-black fruit. Sweet and tart all-purpose berries. The berry of Knott's Berry Farm! June.

Chester berry, thornless

Large fruit, good flavor, sweet, firm. Blackberry class. Late producer extends season into July.

Dirksen, thornless

Large black fruit, very sweet. Early July.

Loganberry, thornless

Dark red fruit. Technically a blackberry/raspberry hybrid, but more like a blackberry in flavor and fruit size. Starts ripening early. Excellent variety. May - June.

Marion Berry

Firm fruit holds its shape in cooking. The classic commercial blackberry. Rich flavor, described as "complex." "The Cabernet of Blackberries." June.

Fruit trees and vines

Olallie Berry.....

Black, shiny berries with 'wild blackberry' flavor. Very productive. Blackberry class. Late May.

Tayberry.....

Blackberry/raspberry hybrid, with flavors of both parents. Dark red/purple fruit. June.

Triple Crown berry.....

Large fruit, excellent flavor. Blackberry class. Late producer extends season into July.

Youngberry, thornless.....

Similar to Boysenberries but somewhat sweeter, with less vigorous vines. June.

Berries--Raspberry

Babaherry.....

Reputedly heat-tolerant variety introduced in the 1980's. Berries were dry and not great. Rarely available now.

Heritage Raspberry.....

A moderately heat-tolerant variety of red raspberry. Everbearing (each cane produces a fall crop in first year, early summer crop in second year). Light crops.

Oregon 1030.....

Mentioned as a heat-tolerant variety in UC cooperative extension publications, but it is not available from any wholesale grower that I'm aware of.

Berries--Strawberry

Alpine strawberry.....

Manageable sized plants do not produce runners, so can be kept in the herb garden or in pots. Produce small very sweet berries throughout the summer.

prefer shade

Garden strawberry.....

Day-neutral (summer-fruiting) varieties include Fern, Ft. Laramie, Hecker, Ozark Beauty, Selva. Albion has especially good flavor. Spring fruiterers include Chandler, Sequoia (best flavor!)

Protect the fruit!

Blueberries

Berkeley.....

Northern Highbush, but grows here. Tall and spreading to 6 feet. Bright fall color. Mid to late season; firm fruit, lower acid.

Bluecrop.....

Northern Highbush, but grows here. Upright bush is "fiery red in fall" [LeC]. Leading commercial variety, large high-quality fruit.

Blueray.....

Northern Highbush, but grows here. Upright to 4 to 6 feet with beautiful pink flowers, excellent fall color and large fruit.

Darrow.....

Northern Highbush, but grows here. Vigorous grower. Mid to late season; largest (huge!) fruit, mildly tart. High chilling requirement @ 850 - 1000 hours.

Jewel blueberry.....

Southern Highbush. 5 to 6 feet tall with 4 to 5 foot spread. Vigorous plant, very productive, large high-quality fruit. Early to mid season.

Jubilee.....

Northern/Southern Highbush hybrid. Upright with nice fall color. Produces two crops a year.

Misty blueberry.....

Southern Highbush. Upright, vigorous bush with clean attractive foliage; may be evergreen. Fruit ripens very early.

O'Neal blueberry.....

Southern Highbush. Four-foot-tall bush. Attractive flowers, nice fall color. Fruit ripens very early and over a long period. "Considered by some to have the best flavor of any of the Southern Highbush types..." [MBN]

Sharpblue blueberry.....

Southern Highbush. Vigorous growth to 6 feet. Very adaptable, very low chilling requirement, tolerant of most soil types. Popular in SoCal. Very large fruit "must be picked frequently in hot weather or it will overripen." [MBN]

Southmoon blueberry (PP9834).....

Southern Highbush. Upright to 4 to 6 feet. Ripens at end of May. Very productive.

Sunshine Blue blueberry.....

Southern Highbush. Very compact bush with showy pink flowers; evergreen. Tolerant of high pH soil; low chilling requirement. Widely adaptable.

Cherries, Pie

Sour or pie cherries.....

I no longer recommend pie cherries due to the Spotted wing drosophila, a fruit fly that arrived in California a few years ago. Fruit will be full of worms, repeated sprays are necessary and not very effective for homeowners. Sorry.

long ripening period

Cherries, sweet

Fruit trees and vines

Sweet cherries

I no longer recommend sweet cherries due to the Spotted wing drosophila, a fruit fly that arrived in California a few years ago. Fruit will be full of worms, repeated sprays are necessary and not very effective for homeowners. Sorry.

Chilean guava

Hardy. Chilean guava will take full sun or shade, average water or drought, growing to 6' or so if you let it, but can be readily pruned to keep it small. Plant this near a window where you can enjoy the aromatic fruit, or near a path for quick nibbling. Adaptable, ornamental, and edible. 'Flambeau' is a variegated cultivar. Susceptible to crown and root rot.

cute garden shrub with edible fruit

Citrus

The following descriptions are for informational purposes. Only a fraction of these are available in the nursery trade. Citrus is heavily regulated to prevent the spread of HLB disease in California. Movement of plants and fruit is subject to quarantine. Most of these are hardy enough to grow here, but a few are tender.

Citrus: Citron

Buddha's Hand (Fingered citron)

"Fruit forms finger-like sections resembling a human hand. Lemon fragrance. Fruit has virtually no pulp and is not eaten. It is beautiful as an evergreen ornamental with multiple "hands" hanging from the branches." [FWG]

Etirog (Ethrog)

Fragrant lemon-like fruit with thick peel is used for the Jewish Feast of the Tabernacles. Candied for use in fruitcakes. [FWG]

Citrus: Grapefruit

Marsh

The standard market grapefruit, but can taste bitter here. Prefers a longer warm growing season, as in Texas or Arizona.

Rio Red

Popular red-fleshed sport introduced from Texas (1985). Needs summer heat. [FWG] Now being marketed in grocery stores as 'Sweet Scarlet' by Paramount Citrus in their Wonderful brand produce line.

Royal

May be an orangelo (grapefruit/orange hybrid). Sweet, seedy, less grapefruit flavor and not bitter.

Star Ruby

The standard market pink grapefruit, but Rio Red is better here. "Compared to other grapefruit varieties, Star Ruby is more difficult to grow well. It has exhibited greater susceptibility to phytophthora, nutrient deficiencies, cold temperatures, and pest problems. It does not appear to grow as vigorously as other grapefruit varieties, and the fruit is often smaller." [UCR]

Citrus: Grapefruit hybrid

Cocktail

Pummelo/mandarin hybrid. Excellent for juice. Fruit is seedy. Holds well on the tree, with good quality even when puffy. "About 2/3 of this plus 1/3 Tarocco blood orange juice makes a fantastically flavored juice drink. Try it, you'll like it. -- EMN" [UCR]

Oro Blanco

Pummelo/grapefruit hybrid, related to Melogold, but more like a grapefruit than like a pummelo. "Produces sweet fruit even in areas of low summer heat. Huge, intensely fragrant flowers. The best white grapefruit for our area." [FWG]

Citrus: Ichandarin

Sudachi

Slow-growing small plant. Fruit is very acid, used green as a garnish and in flavoring. Less seedy than Yuzu. Very cold tolerant.

Yuzu

Yuzu is a common name for several similar varieties created (probably) by crossing the very hardy citrus C. ichangensis with a satsuma mandarin. [UCR] Very popular in Japan for garnish, aromatic uses, and the rind is used as a spice. Small fruit is very tart and seedy. Plant is spiny and very cold hardy. "For juice it will be fine except you will need many since you only get about a teaspoon per fruit, plus lots of seeds, plus it tastes more like lemon-grapefruit juice, plus it has a distinct bitterness." [MBN]

Citrus: Kumquat

Centennial Variegated Kumquat

Spontaneous variegation found on Nagami seedling discovered in 1986. May have mandarin parentage. Fruit are large and have necks. Leaves and young fruit are striped; ripe fruit less so.

Meiwa Kumquat

Sweet round fruit, prized flesh. Candied or in marmalade. Grows best in hotter locations. [FWG]

lesser-known; sweeter?

Nagami Kumquat

Olive size and shape, bright orange fruit, fruits best in warmer areas. Late spring ripening. Very ornamental! [FWG]

best-known type

Nordmann Seedless Kumquat

Ornamental kumquat tree with seedless fruit.

Citrus: Kumquat hybrid

Calamondin (Kalamansi)

Prolific fruit production. Zesty acid juice, used as a garnish in the Philippines. Handsome compact habit. [FWG] Also called Philippine lime.

used like a lemon; prolific

Fruit trees and vines

Eukushu

Thought to be a "chance hybrid" between two species of kumquat. Larger fruit, thinner rind, attractive round leaves. Great garden ornamental.

Indio Mandarinquat

A mandarin/kumquat hybrid! Rich juicy flesh, sweet peel. Very ornamental tree.

Marumi

Plant is somewhat thorny, fruit is round.

Citrus: Lemon

Eureka

"Produces large crops of lemons annually. Standard market variety. Easy to espalier." [FWG] There are several commercial strains of Eureka; Frost and Allen probably the most common.

commercial variety

Genoa (Italian)

Italian lemon with fruit similar to Eureka. Vigorous, with dense foliage; said to be cold tolerant. [FWG]

Limonero Fino

Spanish lemon with fruit similar to Lisbon. Thorny, vigorous.

Lisbon

Fruit quite similar to Eureka. Thornier, dense foliage. Ample year-round crop. Good inland. [FWG] Said to be more cold resistant than Eureka.

heirloom type like Eureka

Meyer Improved

Thought to be a cross between a lemon and a mandarin. "Not a "true" lemon. Compact habit; great in containers. More of an orange flavor. Prolific bearer. Much midwinter fruit. Can flower, fruit nearly year-around. 'Improved' = California state tested, virus-free clone." [FWG]

the home garden "lemon"

Ponderosa

Citron/lemon hybrid. Giant novelty fruit, mostly peel. Sometimes shows up in yards because it has been used in years past as a rootstock.

Santa Teresa

Disease-free selection of 'Femminello Ovale' planted widely in Italy due to apparent resistance to a disease they had there.

Variegated Pink

Unique! Distinctive green and yellow variegated foliage. Lemons have pink flesh, clear juice, acidic lemon flavor. Fuchsia-colored new growth and flower buds. [FWG] Not very productive, but a nice landscape tree.

Villafranca

Mediterranean lemon with fruit similar to Eureka.

Yen Ben Lisbon

Sport of Lisbon that is said to be precocious and heavy-yielding.

Citrus: Lime

Bearss Seedless

"True lime of Tahiti type. Fruit larger than Mexican lime. The only true lime that is hardy here." [FWG]

Giant Key Lime

"Spontaneous autotetraploid selected from seedling population of diploid Key lime." [UCR] Extra large fruit.

Mexican - (Key lime)

Small, sometime seedy fruit with genuine tropical flavor year-round. Frost sensitive, so it is not reliable here! [FWG]

Mexican Sweet

Sweet, juicy, and nearly without acid.

Thornless Mexican Lime

Small, sometimes seedy fruit with genuine tropical flavor year-round. Frost sensitive, so it is not reliable here! [FWG]

Citrus: Lime-like

Australian Finger Lime

You really have to look at a picture of this fruit to see what you are dealing with. It is like a single segment of a lime, with a peel, and after you peel it the little vesicles fall out and you eat them. Because they look like caviar, that term is sometimes used for marketing.

Kieffer Lime (aka Purut, Kuffre, Makrut, and Kaffir)...

Foliage, zest (peel), and juice are used in Thai, Cambodian, and Indonesian cooking. Somewhat tender. Strange-looking bumpy fruit. [FWG]

Marrakech Limetta

"This highly acidic Limonetta is in every other way very similar to Millsweet." [FWG]

Rangpur Lime

Not a true lime, it is actually a sour mandarin. Dwarf if on Four Winds True Dwarf rootstock. Orange colored fruit at Christmas. [FWG] Used for garnish. There are several varieties, but they aren't usually labeled other than 'Rangpur'.

Citrus: Limequat

Eustis

Lime/kumquat hybrid that tastes like a lime but is hardier.

Citrus: Mandarin

Fruit trees and vines

Clementine (Algerian)

"From North Africa. Ripens about a month after Satsuma, good flavor." [FWG] There are several strains grown and harvested around California ranging from October into spring. 'Cuties' are a marketing program using small Clementine and Murcott (grown to be seedless), and Tango (naturally seedless).

special flavor, increasingly popular

Daisy

Big mid-season fruit has good color, some seeds, "moderately strong flavor." [MBN] Strongly alternate-bearing, and fruit tends to split. [UCR]

Dancy

Once the best-known mandarin, the one typically called a "tangerine," ripening around the holidays. Seedy, but rich flavor. Some categorize it as a Clementine variant. (MBN)

Encore

King/Willowleaf hybrid. Very late ripening with "... excellent flavor; desirable as home garden variety but non-commercial due to rind spots. Can be held on tree as late as September." [UCR]

Fallglo

Very early ripening; you can begin harvesting in October, although they hold into the winter. Low acid, mild flavor; "very interesting, wine-like flavor, with a touch of lime..." [MBN]

Fremont

Rich flavor, early ripening (after Clementine, one of its parents). Holds well on tree. Moderately seedy.

Gold Nugget

UC Riverside hybrid introduction. Seedless, mid to late season, similar to Pixie but larger fruit. Very rich, sweet flavor; seedless. "...considered by professional taste panels to be one of the very best flavored citrus in the world."

new in the stores

Honey (California Honey)

UC Riverside introduction. Hybrid mandarin. If you want this variety, you're probably thinking of Murcott. This Honey has mild, low-acid fruit that has low juice content.

Kara

Owari x King mandarin hybrid. Satsuma style (easy to peel), but has seeds. Very late ripening. Not very popular.

Kinnow

King/Willowleaf mandarin hybrid with very rich flavor. Seedy, aromatic, mid-season. "The most widely planted mandarin in Pakistan."

Kishu Seedless

Very small fruit. Sweet, low acid, mild, but good orange flavor. Currently very popular, being promoted as a kids' snack (you can pop the whole peeled fruit in your mouth). "The thin, comparatively tight rind is easily peelable and fragrantly aromatic. The flesh is firm, meaty, and pleasantly sweet in flavor." [UCR quote from The Citrus Industry].

Murcott (Florida Honey)

Tangor. Marketed in Florida as Honey, but there is an official hybrid variety with that name. Flesh orange colored. Tender, very juicy, rich tangerine flavor. Spring ripening. [FWG]

Nova

Cross of Clementine and the Orlando tangelo. Has seeds in mixed plantings; less productive when isolated.

Nules (Clementine de Nules)

Most widely grown clementine type in Spain. This one wins taste trials and ripens early. Strong, rich flavor; extended bloom means extended harvest. Very sweet, juicy. Some seeds.

Owari Satsuma

Hardest of all mandarins. Ripens November - January. Seedless, peels easily. One of the most popular citrus, easy in containers, and one of the smallest trees (more like a bush) when grown on semi-dwarf rootstock. Several clones are grown; most common is 'Frost Owari'. 'Dobahi Beni' has darker color.

the best-known mandarin

Page

Cross between Minneola and Clementine. Easy to peel, early, more like an orange than a tangelo. Juicy, tender, and sweet.

Pixie

Small fruit, mild and pleasant flavor. Seedless, late. Has recently become popular, though it was created in 1927 and introduced in 1965.

Ponkan

"...probably the most widely-grown mandarin in the world, being heavily-grown in China, India, and Brazil." [UCR]. A tropical mandarin. Peels and sections readily. Flavor mild. Seedy.

Shasta Gold

UCR hybrid released in 2002. Large fruit is mid-season but holds well on the tree. Triploid is naturally seedless, even when cross-pollinated. Good color, very juicy, very sweet.

Tahoe Gold

UCR hybrid released in 2002. Fruit is early but does not hold well on tree. Very juicy, sweet, and productive.

Tango

Irradiated selection of W. Murcott. Beautiful deep orange, smooth skin fruit. Very juicy, easy to peel and segment. May set excessively. Nearly seedless even when cross-pollinated, and doesn't cause seeds in nearby mandarins. Likely to become an important commercial variety.

Willowleaf Mediterranean mandarin

Probably originated in Italy around 1810. Important parent of newer hybrids. Strongly alternate-bearing. Tender, juicy and sweet, but doesn't hold well.

Fruit trees and vines

Yosemite Gold

UCR hybrid released in 2002. Late ripening, holds well on the tree. Triploid is naturally seedless, even when cross-pollinated. Good color, very juicy, very sweet.

Citrus: Orange

Cara Cara (Pink) Navel

Early ripening navel was a natural mutation of Washington. Red flesh, rich sweet flavor. Venezuelan introduction. May produce variegated branches and fruit.

Jincheng

Similar to Valencia. "...[T]he most popular sweet orange in China, good for both fresh eating and juice." [MBN]

Lane Late Navel

Ripens a few weeks after Washington, with similar fruit. Developed in Australia. Fruit holds well on tree, with good quality into the summer.

Midnight Valencia

Seedless variety of Valencia with large fruit, slower growing.

summer citrus!

Newhall

Sport of Washington with darker orange fruit. "Slightly earlier...slightly smaller." [UCR]

Powell Navel

A late-season navel orange introduced from Australia.

Red Valencia

Parentage uncertain, probably not related to Valencia although it was originally thought to be a sport. Basically sounds to me like a seedling of a blood orange that the homeowner thought was a Valencia. "[F]lesh deeply pigmented by anthocyanin, less tender than Tarocco; flavor very good, sweeter than Moro; seeds few; season late winter in Riverside, holds on the tree past the season for Moro." [UCR]

Robertson Navel

Virtually identical to Washington except ripens "ten days to two weeks earlier" and tends to fruit in clusters. Consider them interchangeable.

Shamouti (Jaffa, Palestine)

Originated in Jaffa, Palestine (now Israel). The main commercial variety in the Middle East and popular in Europe. "Fabled orange from Middle East. Very few seeds. Spring to summer ripening. Good flavor." [FWG]

Smith Red aka "Red Valencia"

Parentage uncertain, probably not related to Valencia although it was originally thought to be a sport. Basically sounds to me like a seedling of a blood orange that the homeowner thought was a Valencia. "[F]lesh deeply pigmented by anthocyanin, less tender than Tarocco; flavor very good, sweeter than Moro; seeds few; season late winter in Riverside, holds on the tree past the season for Moro." [UCR]

Trovita

Spring ripening orange. Seedling of Washington navel that has no navel. "Few seeds, heavy producer, excellent flavor." [FWG]

Valencia

"Summer-ripening orange for juicing or eating. Fifteen months to ripen. Grow your own orange juice." [FWG] There are several varieties, not usually labeled separately. This is your basic all-purpose late spring and summer orange. Thin skin doesn't peel readily, so quarter it or juice it. Good quality even late into the summer. Color of the rind isn't consistent, nor does it indicate the ripeness of the fruit.

Vaniglia Sanguigno

An acidless red-flesh orange. The name means "vanilla blood." MBN

Washington Navel

Very widely planted, probably the best-known orange in California. Frost Washington is the common strain.

the best-known orange

Citrus: Orange, blood

Moro blood

The most colorful blood orange, earliest ripening, few seeds.

"Very productive, early maturity, distinctive aroma, exotic berry-like flavor." [FWG]

gourmet juice

Sanquinelli blood

Later ripening, more seeds than Moro.

"A deep blood red juice and rind. Tart, spicy flavor. Stores well on tree." [FWG]

Tarocco blood

Flesh is colored, rind is not. Not as productive as other blood oranges, but delicious flavor. One of the oldest blood orange types.

Citrus: Orange, sour

Bergamot sour

Thought to be a hybrid of a sour orange and a citron or lemon. The aromatic oil or rind is the 'bergamot' used to flavor some teas such as Earl Grey.

Bouquet de Fleurs

Very attractive tree with dense, bright green foliage; large, very fragrant flowers used in perfume. Fruit is bitter and sour and not eaten, but ornamental. Spreading habit makes a nice small umbrella-shaped tree or hedge.

Chinotto sour

Myrtle-leaf orange. Beautiful ornamental tree with tight, tiny foliage, abundant bloom, ornamental sour fruit. Great little plant for bonsai, containers.

Seville sour

Seville is a generic term for sour oranges, with more than one variety sold under this name. "Essential for authentic English marmalade. Used fresh or dried in Middle Eastern cooking." [FWG] A beautiful tree with especially fragrant flowers.

Citrus: Orangelo

Chironja

Wild seedling from Puerto Rico. Large grapefruit-like fruit has flavor like an orange. Easy to peel, but with tough intersegmental skins; somewhat seedy. "the closest thing I have found to the concept of a lemon sweet enough to eat fresh like an orange." [MBN]

Citrus: Pummelo

Chandler

Big fruit with wonderful flavor. Looks like a giant grapefruit.

Mato Buntan

Fruit has very mild flavor, but is highly fragrant. Stores well. Small plant with large tropical looking leaves. [MBN]

Melogold

Pummelo/grapefruit hybrid like Oro Blanco, but more like a pummelo than like a grapefruit. "My opinion, for what it might be worth, regarding Oroblanco vs Melogold, is this: For maximum returns as a cash crop, plant your acreage to Melogold; but save one space near your back door for a tree of Oroblanco for your own use. -- EMN" [UCR]

Reinking

Parentage is uncertain, but UCR says it is a pure pummelo (not a hybrid). Like a sweet, low-acid grapefruit. Holds well when picked. Attractive plant with a slightly weeping habit.

Tahitian

Thin rind for a pummelo; yellow to greenish. Juicy, sweet, "with a flavor some refer to as melon-like or even lime-like." [UCR]
"They will keep for a very long time....The very large flowers are heavily scented like gardenias." [MBN]

Thong Dee

Thai variety. Very large fruit with light yellow rind. Flesh is tinged pink. Seedy when cross-pollinated.

Citrus: Sweet Lime

Mary Ellen Lime

Mild, sweet, juicy, low acid. "Inspid." [UCR] Few seeds.

Millsweet Limetta

"It was brought to California by the (real) Padres very early and is therefore possibly the oldest citrus still in production here." (MBN) Very low acid, with mild sweet flavor. Peel has a "perfumy bouquet."

Palestine Sweet

Medium-sized round, yellow fruit. Less flavorful than Bearss.

Citrus: Tangelo

Minneola

"Deep reddish-orange colored fruit in winter. Leave fruit on tree for rich tangerine-like flavor in late spring. A beautiful tree in the landscape." Few seeds. Pollination by mandarins improves yield. [FWG]

Orlando

Similar to Minneola tangelo, but doesn't peel easily. Earlier. Mild flavor, very juicy. Has seeds if cross-pollinated, but more productive.

Wekiwa

Small fruit is very aromatic. Plant is dense, dark green, attractive. Mild, low acid fruit. [MBN]
"[F]lavor sweet and mildly acid, becoming unpleasant when overripe....a hybrid of grapefruit and Sampson tangelo and, therefore, is in reality a tangelolo. It has not achieved commercial importance but is of interest as a novelty and because of its pink rind coloration." [UCR]

Citrus: Tangor

Ortanique

Natural hybrid from Jamaica. Rich, distinctive flavor ripens late midseason. Holds well. Tight skin but peels readily. Seedy when cross-pollinated.

Temple

A parent of some of the new UCR hybrids. Cold-sensitive. Rich, spicy flavor. Really needs heat for good flavor.

W. Murcott (Afourer)

Tangor. Imported to California from Morocco in 1985. Less seeds, better coloration "than Murcott Honey."

Crabapple, fruiting/flowering

Transcendent Crabapple

Fragrant white blossoms; small tree. High quality, pretty bright yellow to red fruit which ripens in August. Pollenizes regular apples. Fruit eaten fresh, preserved, or for jam.

Figs

Black Mission Fig

Purplish-black skin, pink flesh, rich flavor. Heavy bearing large tree with 2 crops per year. Fresh or dry.

heirloom California variety

Blackjack Fig

Natural dwarf tree, easily kept under 10'. Fruit like Black Mission. 2 crops per year.

dwarf variety

Brown Turkey Fig

Brown skin, pink flesh. Sweet, rich flavor, used fresh. 2 crops per year. Widely adapted. Small tree.

popular California variety

Fruit trees and vines

Conadria Fig.....

White fig with extra sweet flavor. Light greenish-yellow skin, pink flesh. Fresh or dried. Very vigorous, long-lived tree. 2 - 3 crops per year.

gourmet white fig

Kadota Fig.....

"White" fruit (greenish-yellow) is firm-textured, good for processing, very sweet. 2 crops per year. Large, beautiful tree, can be kept smaller by pruning.

firm-textured white fig

Panache (Tiger) Fig.....

Striped fruit is very sweet. 2 crops per year.

soft, sweet white fig

Texas Everbearing Fig.....

Brown-yellow skin, amber flesh. Sweet, rich flavor, used fresh. 2 - 3 crops per year. Widely adapted. Small tree.

White Genoa Fig.....

Greenish-white skin, pink flesh, very juicy and sweet. 2 crops per year. This is a gourmet delight.

soft, sweet white fig

Grapes, table

Autumn Seedless Grape.....

Late-ripening variant of Thompson Seedless released by the USDA. Ripens late August - September.

Black Emerald Seedless Grape.....

Jet black when ripe. Firm flesh, early fruiting, very sweet. 1994 USDA introduction. July - August.

Black Monukka Seedless Grape.....

Seedless black table grape, very sweet with crisp texture. August - September.

Blueberry Seedless Grape.....

Seedless fruit is small, very sweet, with a hint of blueberry flavor. Great for drying. Vine is very productive and has nice fall color. August - September.

Eastern Concord Grape.....

Blue black grapes with strong, rich flavor. Popular for juice, jelly. The classic grape juice variety! Attractive foliage; nice for arbors. August - September.

Eastern Concord Seedless Grape.....

Blue black seedless grapes with strong, rich flavor. Popular for juice, jelly. Attractive foliage; nice for arbors. August - September.

Fantasy Grape.....

Large black seedless grapes with outstanding flavor and texture. Early August. Very vigorous vine with attractive foliage. [MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE 2010]

Flame Seedless Grape.....

Very vigorous, productive red seedless grape with good flavor and texture. Ripens August - September

Ladyfinger Grape.....

Large, elongated light green grapes with tangy flavor. Good sub for Thompson Seedless and less tricky to prune. October.

Midgley's Purple Seedless Grape.....

Firm, crisp fruit, great for fresh eating and raisins. Very productive, very large bunches of fruit. Ripens September.

Muscat of Alexandria Grape.....

Niabel Grape.....

Large blue black grapes like Concord. Very pretty foliage; great for arbors. August.

Perlette.....

Summer Muscat Seedless Grape.....

Seedless muscat hybrid grown for fresh eating, juice, DOV (dry-on-vine) raisins, or even dessert wines. August - September.

Summer Royal Grape.....

Seedless black table grape. Late August.

Thompson Seedless Grape.....

The seedless grape everyone knows. Easy to grow. Thin the clusters for larger fruit. Early August.

Grapes, wine

Cabernet Sauvignon Grape.....

Distinctive aroma, somewhat tannic. One of the grapes used in Bordeaux, and one of the most commonly grown wine grapes in the world.

Merlot Grape.....

Large clusters of soft, juicy grapes. Ripen early. Higher sugar content than Cabernet, lower than Zinfandel. Medium body. Often used for blending in Bordeaux-style wines.

Pinot Chardonnay Grape.....

One of the many synonyms of Chardonnay. In hot climates, Chardonnay produces strong, rich-flavored grapes with lots of sugar.

Shiraz Grape.....

AKA Syrah (but not the same as Petite Sirah!). Generally a very strong-flavored but less tannic red wine grape. Often used for blending.

Zinfandel Grape.....

Planted in California since the 1850's. Very high sugar content, suitable for fresh eating or to dry as raisins.

Guava, Lemon

Also called Yellow Strawberry guava. Hardy enough to recover from periodic freezes in our area. Large shrub or small tree. More open habit, bigger tree than Strawberry guava.

hardy enough

Fruit trees and vines

Guava, Pineapple

Hardy. Plant named varieties if you want reliable fruit production. Edible flowers! Very drought tolerant. Fuzzy grey-green leaves make a nice contrast with red-leaved or shiny-leaved shrubs.

big hedge shrub, very tough

Guava, Strawberry

Hardy enough to recover from periodic freezes in our area. Large shrub or small tree. Beautiful bark, graceful form Also called P. littorale longipes.

hardy enough

Guava, Tropical

'True' guava, very tender. Grows only in areas that are completely or nearly frost-free.

hardy here?

Jujube

GA.866 Jujube (Chinese date).....

New selection from Chico breeding program. Large fruit. Very high sugar content, delicious fresh off the tree. Sweet as dates when dried. Fall ripening.

New!

Honey Jar Jujube (Chinese date).....

Fruit is small, crunchy, juicy, and very sweet! Eat them right off the tree, or dry them. Sweet as dates when dried. Late summer ripening.

New!

Li Jujube (Chinese Date).....

Pretty little tree with shiny foliage. Very tough, easy to grow. Produces loads of fruit that look like little elongated brown apples. Sweet as dates when dried. Fall ripening.

very productive; tough, attractive tree

Shanxi Li Jujube (Chinese date).....

Very large fruit, usually 2 inches. Sweet apple flavor. Late summer ripening.

New!

Jujube

Sugar Cane Jujube (Chinese date).....

"Small to medium fruit...extremely sweet....Sweet apple flavor." Late summer ripening.

New!

Kiwi

Male and female needed for fruit production. Male hardy kiwis can pollenize female A. chinensis vines. Attractive foliage. Grows to 20' - 30'; will cover an arbor. Can take several years to start flowering. Twines.

Kiwi, hardy

Male and female needed for fruit production, except for the variety 'Issai'. Attractive foliage. Grows to 10 - 15'. Twines. Has become invasive in eastern U.S.

Loquat

Hardy. Big bold tropical leaves on a shrubby tree to 15' or so. Biggest problem is susceptibility to fireblight, a bacterial disease which causes rapid dieback in spring. Plant cultivars for good quality fruit.

Macadamia

Considered too tender for Central Valley winters, although established trees can tolerate temperatures to about 24F. Look for Beaumont variety for hardiness.

Mulberries

Black Beauty Mulberry.....

Fruit like juicy blackberries. Harvest in early summer for over a month. Birds love them. Naturally dwarf, slow-growing. Seeds are sterile.

prolific flavorful fruit

Cooke's Pakistan Mulberry.....

Amazing raspberry flavored fruit are 3 to 5" long! Maroon to black fruit is very sweet. Fruits from early to mid-summer over many weeks.

huge fruit!

Teas Weeping Mulberry.....

Sweet, juicy fruit in early summer. Birds love them. Tree makes a striking accent, or playhouse for young kids.

cute garden feature; mild, sweet fruit

NectaPlum

Spice Zee NectaPlum.....

White flesh fruit is very sweet but also tangy, just like you'd expect in a cross between a nectarine and a plum. Blossoms are showy pink; new growth is dark red aging to green. Very attractive tree.

Nectarines

Arctic Fantasy Nectarine.....

Great white-flesh nectarine. Large rich-flavored red fruit. Early August.

Double Delight Nectarine.....

Beautiful flowers, excellent fruit on this attractive landscape tree. Mid-July.

Fantasia Nectarine.....

Bright red skin, firm fleshed fruit. One of the best. Mid - late July.

Flavortop Nectarine.....

Excellent fruit, firm texture; showy flowers. Early to Mid-July.

Fruit trees and vines

Goldmine Nectarine.....

Large, attractive juicy fruit with white flesh and rich, sweet flavor. Early August.

Heavenly White Nectarine.....

Outstanding flavor and texture; one of the best summer fruits of all. July.

Independence Nectarine.....

Bright red skin, firm flesh, excellent flavor. One of the best. Late June.

JuneGlo Nectarine.....

Outstanding fruit, one of the best early stone fruits. Semi-freestone when fully ripe.

Ruby Grand Nectarine.....

Large fruit, yellow skin with red blush. Firm, melting flesh. Excellent! Taste test winner. Late June to early July.

Olives

Many varieties. Olives take heat, wind, drought, and have unique structure. Nearly all varieties of fruiting olives for curing or oil can be grown readily here. Research olive fruit fly before you plant them for oil. Common allergy plant.

Palm, California Fan

Hardy to about 18F. Southern California native palm grows straight up to 50 ft or more. Very tough, drought-tolerant. "... small fruits are brownish-black and have a thin, sweet pulp that tastes somewhat like dates or butterscotch." [CRFG]

Palm, Jelly

Very attractive blue-green fan palm. "It produces fruit that are edible and often quite good, tasting much like high quality pineapple in the better forms. Like the form of the plants the flavor and quality vary considerably." [MBN] Cold hardy here.

Palm, Mexican Blue or

Cold hardy fan palm to 20F. Very attractive grey-blue fronds on a slow-growing tree eventually to 30 ft. Very tolerant of heat, drought. "Plump, black fruits, about one inch in diameter are borne in great sprays on the trees. The pleasant, sweet taste is somewhat like dates." [CRFG]

Passion fruit

'Black Knight'.....

2" white flowers, large excellent fruit. Self-fruitful. Hardy to 20 - 25F, fairly compact.

'Frederick'.....

Large, fragrant flowers. Outstanding fruit and a vigorous plant, but tender. Fruit must ripen and fall naturally.

'Nancy Garrison'.....

Small, frilled greenish white and purple flowers, edible fruit.

Pawpaw

Hardy. Do you really want a pawpaw?

You need two trees of different varieties to cross-pollinize. Crushed leaves smell like diesel fuel. Mmmm.

Pollinated by carrion flies and beetles, the flowers smell like rotting meat. This alluring idea comes from a web site: "I have hung chicken bones to attract carrion flies to the flowers, and others have used this practice to improve pollination." Or this from Wikipedia: "Growers of pawpaws sometimes place rotting fruit or roadkill meat near the trees at bloom time to increase the number of pollinators." Charming.

Peaches

Arctic Supreme Peach.....

Astounding white peach. Rich flavor, firm texture (unlike most white peaches). Cling ("nearly freestone when fully ripe").

Early Elberta Peach.....

(aka Kim and July Elberta). Elbertas have yellow skin tinged with red. Very rich, distinctive flavor. Good all-purpose peaches; the ones you grew up with. Early July.

Fantastic Elberta Peach.....

Beautiful flowers and heavy production of outstanding Elberta peaches on this dual-purpose landscape tree. One of the best. Good all-purpose peach. Early August.

Fay (Late) Elberta Peach.....

(aka Late Elberta) Heavy production of outstanding Elberta peaches on this late variant. Very rich, distinctive flavor; good all-purpose peach. Early August.

Gleason (Lemon) Elberta Peach.....

(aka Improved Elberta and Lemon Elberta) Another excellent variant of Elberta, ripens in mid to late July.

Gold Dust Peach.....

Excellent early peach with very good flavor and firm flesh. Excellent to plant with later varieties. Mid-June.

Golden Glory Mini Peach.....

Miniature tree with beautiful pink flowers and juicy fruit with good flavor. Very large, yellow-fleshed fruit. Mid to late August. 700 hours.

Honey Babe Miniature Peach.....

Very high quality fruit on a miniature tree. Easy way to grow peaches in very limited space; nice accent in herb or vegetable garden. Mid-July.

July (Kim) Elberta Peach.....

Another excellent variant of the classic Elberta peach, this one starts to ripen in about the second week of July.

June Gold Peach.....

Large fruit with rich flavor, melting texture. Cling. Prolific. Late May to early June.

Loring Peach.....

One of the best. Showy flowers, large fruit, very productive, great texture, top-rated flavor! Highly recommended! Mid-July.

Fruit trees and vines

O'Henry Peach

Large showy flowers. Very productive, firm texture, very good quality fruit with rich flavor. Excellent all-purpose late peach. August.

Red Baron Peach

Stunning double red blooms--the showiest of all. Wonderful landscape tree. Very rich, sweet, juicy fruit over a long period. Softens quickly, eat right away. Mid-July to early August. Low chilling hours.

Redhaven Peach

Very good early variety. Large fruit with firm texture, good sweet flavor. Well-known commercial variety. High chilling hour requirement. Late June.

Rio Oso Gem Peach

Very large fruit with firm texture and excellent flavor, on a naturally small tree. An outstanding very late variety. One of the best. Mid-August.

Suncrest Peach

Rich flavored commercial variety featured in the book Epitaph For a Peach, by David Mas Masumoto. Mid - late July.

Peacotum

Bella Gold Peacotum

Amazing cross of peach, apricot, and plum. Very sweet flesh. Naturally small tree. Pollenizer needed; Blenheim apricot or Flavor Grenade pluot.

Pears, Asian

20th Century Pear (Asian)

(aka Nijisseiki, "Apple Pear") Earliest variety. Juicy fruit with pleasant flavor. Very susceptible to fireblight, but vigorous so it can outgrow it seasonally. Self-fruitful. Late July - mid-August.

Hosui Pear (Asian)

Medium-large golden fruit with juicy sweet flavor and good texture. Very popular! Early - late August.

Shinko Pear (Asian)

Medium - large brownish fruit. Very rich, sweet with good texture. Stores well for several weeks. One of the best. Very good fireblight resistance. August - mid-September.

Shinseiki Pear (Asian)

Medium size yellow, juicy fruit with mild flavor. Self-fruitful. Late July - mid-August.

Pears, European

Fan-Stil Pear (European)

Medium-size yellow fruit with crisp, juicy flesh. The most fireblight resistant pear. Late August into September..

Kieffer Pear (hybrid)

Large greenish fruit with crisp, juicy flesh. Euro/Asian hybrid. Stores well, self-fertile. Very resistant to fireblight. October - November.

Moonglow Pear (European)

Large brownish fruit like Bartlett. Soft flesh, little grit. Very fireblight resistant. Early August.

Pineapple Pear (European)

Large fruit with russeted skin. Sweet flesh tastes like pineapple. Fruits very young, often first year. Very fireblight resistant. August.

Warren Pear (European)

Very productive, even when young. Juicy fruit is soft textured when ripe. No grit cells. Very resistant to fireblight. Reliably self-fruitful.

Persimmons

Chocolate Persimmon

Medium size elongated fruit. Orange skin, brown flesh is very sweet and tasty. Non-astringent. Late October - early November.

Fuyu Persimmon

Medium size flattened red-orange fruit can be eaten while still firm. Non-astringent. November. A mature Fuyu can produce 500 or more fruit! Jiro is the form of Fuyu most common in California; Imoto is the form most common in Japan.

the firm one

Giant Fuyu Persimmon

Large flattened red-orange fruit can be eaten while still firm. Non-astringent. November.

Hachiya Persimmon

Very large oblong red-orange fruit (has a short point) with very rich flavor. The best for cooking. Astringent until fully ripe; must be squishy soft before you can eat it. December.

the soft one

Pluerry

Sweet Treat Pluerry

Sweet, mild, pleasant, firm fruit ripens early in the season. Newer varieties of pluerry are sweeter. Needs a pollenizer.

Plums

Autumn Rosa Plum

Large fruit with purple-red skin, amber flesh streaked red. Firm fruit, excellent flavor. Self-fruitful. Very late: early to late September. Holds well on tree and ripens over a long period.

Burgundy Plum

Red skin with red flesh all the way to the pit. Mellow, sweet, great for fresh eating. Self-fruitful. Pollenizer for pluerry. Holds on tree well: early July to early September!

Casselman Plum

Red skin with yellow-to-red flesh. Natural variation of Santa Rosa. Sweet flesh with tart skin. Self-fruitful. Early August.

Fruit trees and vines

Elephant Heart Plum

Very large, gourmet quality fruit. Red flesh, freestone, amazing flavor. Aug - Sept ripening. Pollenizer required: Santa Rosa is good.

Emerald Beaut Plum

Taste test winner! Greenish-yellow skin and flesh. Firm flesh gets sweeter but stays crisp as fruit ripens. Long harvest—late August through September. Pollenize with Burgundy, Nubiana or Late Santa Rosa plums, or Flavor King Pluot.

Golden Nectar Plum

Extra large fruit has thin, golden amber skin and amber, firm flesh. Small freestone pit. Sweet with rich flavor. Dries well. Late July.

Green Gage

European plum with sweet, not tangy, greenish-yellow fruit, very juicy. Self-fruitful. July.

Inca Plum

Beautiful golden fruit with red specks. Rich, dense, crisp fruit with a balance of sweet and tart. Luther Burbank introduced this in 1919. Early to mid-August.

Nubiana Plum

Large dark purple plum with sweet, firm amber flesh. Holds well on tree for 2 - 3 weeks. Self-fruitful. Mid - late July.

holds better on the tree

Santa Rosa Plum

Purplish tart skin, yellow-to-red sweet flesh. Very popular and productive, heavy producing all-purpose plum. Self-fruitful and good pollenizer for other plums and pluots. Mid-June, into July.

great backyard plum

Satsuma Plum

Red plum, firm dark red juicy flesh, amazing rich flavor. Excellent! A true gourmet fruit. Needs pollenizer. August.

Weeping Santa Rosa

Weeping variant of the Santa Rosa that makes a lovely garden accent. Very productive, self-fruitful.

Plums, prune

Early Italian (Richards) Plum (Prune)

Large fruit with dark purple skin, yellow flesh. A commercial prune variety with excellent super-sweet flavor. Self-fruitful. August - mid-September.

sweet, rich flavor, firm texture

French Plum (Prune)

Large fruit with dark blue skin. Tender, great texture, very sweet. One of the commercial prune varieties. Self-fruitful. August.

Italian Plum (Prune)

Large fruit with dark purple skin, yellow flesh. A commercial prune variety with excellent super-sweet flavor. Self-fruitful. August - mid-September.

sweet, rich flavor, firm texture

Pluots

Dapple Dandy Pluot

Taste test winner! Mottled red and yellowish fruit with tangy sweet plum-apricot flavor. One of the best! Pollenize with Flavor Supreme, Flavor Queen, or Santa Rosa plum. August.

Flavor Grenade Pluot

Taste test winner! Greenish fruit with red blush. Crisp texture, rich flavor. Holds for 4 - 6 weeks on the tree. Ripens in August. Pollenizer needed; use Dapple Dandy pluot or Santa Rosa plum.

Flavor King Pluot

Taste test winner! Red-purple fruit, firm red flesh. Small tree. Very sweet. Pollenize with Flavor Supreme, or Santa Rosa plum. Mid-August.

Flavor Queen Pluot

Light green fruit ripens to bright yellow; golden flesh. One of the sweetest, firm, juicy, not tart. Pollenize with Dapple Dandy or Flavor Supreme or Santa Rosa plum. Long harvest mid-July through August.

Flavor Supreme Pluot

Taste test winner; one of the best summer fruits. Greenish mottled fruit with red flesh. Sweet, rich, tangy, early. Outstanding! Pollenize with Santa Rosa plum or any other pluot. The earliest pluot. June.

Splash Pluot

Very flavorful new variety, very productive.

Pomegranates

Ambrosia Pomegranate

Very large fruit is pale pink, with very dark arils and juice. Sweet-tart, very rich flavor. Sept - Oct

Angel Red Pomegranate

Soft seeds -- no spitting! -- and the highest juice content of any pomegranate. Vivid red fruit ripens in October.

new "seedless" variety

Desertnyi Pomegranate

Does very well here, rich flavor, orange skin, dark red arils, soft seeds.

Early Wonderful Pomegranate

Earlier-ripening variant of the standard large red-fruited variety. Showy orange-red flowers in May - June, high-quality fruit ripens in October.

early variant of the standard pomegranate

Eversweet Pomegranate

Very sweet fruit with soft seeds. Juice is clear and non-staining. Long bloom season. October - November.

Granada Pomegranate

Natural variation of Wonderful. Deeper red blossoms, ripens a month earlier, a bit less tart. October.

Fruit trees and vines

Sweet Pomegranate.....

*Orange-red flowers, pink fruit. Sweet, juicy, not tart.
October - November.*

White Pomegranate.....

*Very juicy, very sweet, mild-flavored fruit is white inside
and out! November.*

Wonderful Pomegranate.....

*The standard large red-fruited variety. Showy orange-red
flowers in May - June, high-quality fruit ripens in October -
November.*

the standard pomegranate

Quince

Orange Quince.....

*Also called 'Apple'. Flesh is orange, tender, great for
cooking. Some say this is tender enough to eat fresh.*

Pineapple Quince.....

*"Large. Smooth, golden yellow skin. White flesh with slight
pineapple flavor. Good for cooking, pie fillings, candies and
jelly. Heavy producer. Originated with Luther Burbank in
1899." [LEC] Ripens: September.*

California's commercial variety

Smyrna Quince.....

*Huge quantities of lemon yellow fruit with rich perfume
and wonderful flavor, used in cooking and preserves.
September - November.*

the best-known home garden variety

Quince, flowering

*The first shrub to bloom in the late winter! Several varieties
grow to 5 - 6'+ Fruit, if any develops, makes unique
aromatic jelly. 'Cameo', 'Low n White', 'Minerva', 'Texas
Scarlet', are common varieties.*

Rhubarb

Rhubarb, Crimson Cherry.....

The reddest rhubarb, very tender and flavorful.

Rhubarb, Victoria Cherry.....

*Seedling grown strain, green stalks with some red. Color
varies. Vigorous, productive; can often be harvested first
year.*