

Fruit Growing in the San Francisco Bay Area

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Fruit listed below will grow in some to many locations. Harvest dates are for my garden in El Sobrante. Other gardeners will have a different result depending upon the microclimate, variety chosen and willingness to “fuss” with plant.

Key:

Bold type on fruit name = relatively easy care and reliable source of fruit

Pick = months fruit is available i.e. May =5 (includes months with just a few fruit and extremes from years of unusual weather)

X-Pol = x - must be cross pollinated with another variety; some/most tell how many kinds of this fruit need x-pol; more F -more fruit with x-pol; (m & f) both male & female plants needed for x-pol

Var = usually use grafted trees or named varieties to have tastier fruit, produce sooner

Prune = x marked plants need a lot of yearly pruning; if N, usually no pruning needed

Other = beautiful flowers or various problems including frost; "water" means more than average; chill hours is winter cold.

Fruit	Pick	X-Pol	Var	Prune	Other
Apple	7 to 1	x-pol	x		beautiful flowers; can be dry farmed in deep soil on standard rootstock; some not cross pollinate; gets coddling moth, ants (aphids) gophers like
Apricot	6-7	some	x		can be drier than other fruit trees; gets diseases; blooms & fruits early
Babaco					frosts at 27-28 F; water
Berries					all do better with water & humus-rich soil; birds love fruit
Bababerry	5-10			x	will take extremes of heat and cold
Blackberry	5-1		x	x	some named varieties produce over a long time; Boyson, Logan, Marion, and Ollieberry are other variations; some thornless.
Blueberry	6-9	most	x		need acid soil; water; better fruit in cooler summer areas
Chokecherry	8-10			N	wonderful jam; various native or wild varieties available
Currant	5-6		x		part shade needed in warmer summer areas; water
Gooseberry	5-7		x		very thorny; lot of cold chill required; part shade ok
Juneberry	5-6			N	wild and some named varieties; beautiful fragrant flowers; fruit a few weeks after bloom; drought tolerant.
Kerryberry				x	evergreen; tart fruit 12 months a year
Raspberry, red	5-11		x	x	spreads with ample water; small prickles on stems
Raspberry, yellow	5-10		x	x	part shade & cooler summers best; fragile fruit; prickly stem; water
Tayberry				x	cross between raspberry and blackberry; thorny
Cactus					all have thorns; very drought tolerant
Cereus peruviana	8-11			N	beautiful flowers; needs heat; freeze at 15-18 F; drought ok
Opuntia	8-11			N	heat and drought ok
Pitaya				N	freezes at 28 F
Che	10-11	m & f			called Chinese mulberry; water; warmth needed
Cheremoya	winter				frosts at 25-28 F; most kinds need hand pollination; needs water
Cherry, Capulin	7-8			N	evergreen landscape tree; takes wind; sandy soil best; fruits in 2 years from seed; frosts at 20 F; need water
Cherry, Nanking		x-pol		N	bush-size pie-type cherry; birds love fruit; fruits very early
Cherry, pie	6			N	birds love fruit, tart but can hold on bush until sweeter
Cherry, sweet	5-7	most	x		deep soil needed; birds love fruit; some self fruitful; fruits early
Citrus					scented flowers bloom a long time; no pruning needed if dwarf rootstock used; need good drainage; have some thorns; frosts 18-30 F
blood orange	6-7 & 11-4		x		moderate heat is minimum needed for sweeter fruit
grapefruit					most frost sensitive & need most heat of citrus but pummelo-grapefruit cross is ok in cool summer areas
lemon	1-12		x		most to moderate (Meyer) frost sensitive; cooler summers ok
lime			x		most frost sensitive; cooler summers ok
mandarin	12-6		x		moderate heat is minimum need; more cold hardy & drought tolerant
sweet orange			x		more heat yields sweeter fruit
tangerine			x		grapefruit/mandarin cross; more heat needed than for oranges

Two main fruit organizations in West

California Rare Fruit Growers at www.crfg.org and **North American Fruit Growers** at www.nafex.org/

Fruit	Pick	X-Pol	Var	Prune	Other
Elderberry	fall	x-pol	x		water; two native varieties and many named varieties
Eleagnus					takes dry conditions and wind
Goumi	5-6			N	few named varieties, mild flavor, slightly sweet with soft pit
Autumn Olive	8-1		x	N	varies from slightly sweet to tart-sweet in flavor; few named varieties
Eugenia					takes water and warmth
Cherry of Rio Grande				N	hard to transplant (few root hairs); grows slowly to 15'; fruit 3 weeks after flowers; frosts at 20 F
Surinam cherry	5-9			N	also called Pitanga; lovely tree & beautiful flowers; freezes at 22-27 F; fruits for about a month (3 weeks after flowering); fruits several times
Fig	6-7, 8-11		x		birds love fruit; freezes at 12-15; prune to keep short; many need heat to produce sweeter fruit; gophers lover roots.
Grape	6-11	some	x	x	deep soil best; critters love
Guava, Lemon	11-12			N	warmth; freezes at 22-25 F but grows back fast; fruit in 2 years
Guava, Strawberry	11-12			N	warmth, freezes at 22-25 F but grows back fast; fruit in 2 years
Guava, tropical				N	warmth; freezes at 26-29 F; hot summers needed for fruit
Jelly palm				N	slow growth; small tree; freezes at 15 F, very drought tolerant
Jujube	9-11	more	x	N	needs heat; Chinese variety has better flavor; some thorns; drought ok
Kiwi, standard	10-12	m & f	x	x	water; exuberant growth; wind breaks branches
Kiwi, hardy	9-10	m & f	x	x	water; sweeter than regular kiwi; wind damages
Kumquat	winter		x		fragrant flowers; most cold resistant of citrus-type plants; needs heat
Loquat	4-7		x	N	fragrant flowers Nov to Feb; landscape tree; drought ok; frost at 12-15 F; flowers frost at 26 F; can be grown as a dwarf
Mulberry	6-9		x	N	fruit cause stains (except white varieties); birds love; any soil; heat ok; freezes at 25 to -25 F; black mulberry is small tree; some drought ok
Natal plum				N	2" fragrant flowers for several months; fruit thorny, tart; freezes at 26 F
Pawpaw	fall		x	N	grows slowly; deep rooted; under-story tree so shade when young; native to US; cold hardy, water
Passion fruit			x		water; freezes at 28-32 F but up from roots next season; needs rich, well drained soil; warmth; water; lives about 8 years
Peach & Nectarine	6-9	some	x	x	needs well drained soil; gets peach leaf curl and other diseases; gets ants which carry aphids; pretty flowers, more heats means sweeter fruit,
Pear, Asian	7-10	more F	x		some coddling moth; some fire blight; heavy soil preferred
Pear, European	7-11	many	x		fire blight if too much fertilizer & water; coddling moth; can live for 200 years; prefers heavy soil; more chill hours needed than A. pears
Persimmon, Amer		more F	x		small fruit; free of diseases and pests; drought tolerant; cold hardy
Persimmon, Asian		some	x		freezes at 10 F; long tap root; decorative fruit, heat sweetens
Pineapple guava	10-1	most	x	N	also called feijoa; beautiful & edible flowers; frosts at 5-15 F
Plum, Asian	6-9	some	x		lovely flowers; light or heavy soil ok, less chill hours than E. plums
Plum, European	7-9	some	x		lovely flowers; better on heavier soil
Plum, Kalamath	5-7	?			a native plum, small tasty fruit
Pluot	6-9	x	x		some grow very fast; cross of plum and apricot
Pomegranate	10-11		x	N	beautiful flowers; drought ok; freezes at 12 F, heat sweetens fruit
Quince	fall		x	N	excellent jelly; a new variety can be eaten without cooking; very early flowers; can take drier conditions and heavy soil
Raisin tree	fall			N	sweet swollen stems eaten rather than fruit; may not ripen in really cool summers; part shade ok, drought tolerant
Rhubarb	5-7		x	N	does better in colder areas, more red stalks in colder areas
Seaberry	8-9	m & f		N	can take dry, hot and windy conditions; thorny
Sapote, white	8			N	enormous amounts of fruit; freezes at 19- 25 F; water, better in less heat
Strawberry, hybrids	3-11		x		needs water; light rich soil best; ants and slugs a problem
Strawberry, Alpine	1-12			N	can be drier than regular strawberry; will self seed; humus & light soil
Tree tomato	12-2			N	attracts aphids; should be out of wind; freezes at 28 F; water
Ugni	8-10	more F		N	Chilean Guava; water; freezes at 11 F; part shade in hot areas

Note: for most deciduous fruit, number of chill hours is also a limiting factor in warmer winter areas. See www.davewilson.com for chill hours for some fruit and <http://fruitsandnuts.ucdavis.edu/chillcalc/index.cfm> for a summary of chill hours as the winter progresses.

Other fruit for Bay Area

Banana	Fuschia	Grumichama	Hawthorn	Jaboticaba	Kei Apple	Lingonberry
Mango	Medlar	Monstera	Mountain Ash	Palms (some)	Rose Hip	Wampi

