**Fruit Tree Guide 2015-16**

Picking and eating your own home-grown fruit is one of life’s real joys and not to be missed. The variety of fruit trees available to the home gardener has never been greater and there are fruiting plants for every garden, whether large or small. We hope you enjoy creating your own edible garden.

### Pollination

Some fruit trees require cross-pollination with another tree to ensure adequate pollination and fruit set. Where fruit trees require cross-pollination, specific information about suitable pollinators and varieties are provided along with the description.

### Fruit Tree Heights

- **Miniature** - Miniature fruit trees are the ideal choice for the small garden or for pot culture. They are grafted onto dwarfing stock and grow to less than 3m high.
- **Dwarf** - Dwarf trees are generally grafted onto dwarfing stock. The fruit trees grown on this stock are generally smaller than their dwarf counterparts.
- **Standard** - Standard trees are grown on regular stock and generally have larger fruit than the dwarf and mini varieties.

### Avocados

- **Fruit:** Large, crisp, good flavour. Matures January.
- **Pollinators:** An extremely popular variety producing large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen.

### Cherries

- **Fruit:** Large greenish fig, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen.

### Gooseberry

- **Fruit:** Large, green and purple skin over yellow flesh with red blush and a sweet, nectar-like flavor.

### Goji Berry

- **Fruit:** Large, anti-oxidant rich berries throughout summer and autumn. The Goji berry is ripe in spring and early autumn.

### Chinese Gooseberry (Kiwi Fruit)

- **Fruit:** Large greenish fig, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen.

### Figs

- **Fruit:** Large, green and purple skin over yellow flesh with red blush and a sweet, nectar-like flavor.

### Banana

- **Fruit:** Large greenish fig, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen.

### Apricots

- **Fruit:** Large greenish fig, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen to large green figs, which ripen.

### Blueberries

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Grapes
These wonderfully hardy and productive vines will provide you with a wealth of fruit and welcome shade when planted on a pergola.
Crimson Seedless: Produces seedless, crimson blushed, late April. Prune to canes of 8 buds each.
Flame Seedless: Produces red, seedless berries. Matures late February to early April. Prune to 3 buds.
Italy: Produces large, round, seeded, golden blushed, Muscat flavoured berries. Matures February to early April. Prune apricot spur.
Lady’s Fingers: Produces large, oval and slightly elongated, white seeded berries. Matures late February. Spur prune.
Ribier: A vigorous variety, suitable for pergolas or high trellis. Produces large bunches of reddish-black, round, seeded berries. Matures February. Spur prune; also cuts 6 canes of 6 buds each.
Red Globe: Very popular grape. Produces bunches of large, rounded, seeded berries. Matures late to mid February. Prune to 6 canes of 6 buds each.

Sultana: Produces classic, green, seeded berries, developing a golden blush with age. Matures late January-Carrierene.

Guavas
Pineapple Guava (Feijoa sellowiana): An attractive, evergreen shrub producing small and delicious fruit. Popular as a hedge, trees, jam and chutney. Group planting recommended for improved fruit quality and fruit. Matures winter.

Strawberry Guava (Ficus aurea): Also known as Cherry Guava. An attractive, evergreen, shrub to small tree, usually 1.5-3 metres tall. Has rich, bright green foliage and produces small, red skinned fruit 2-3.5cm across filled with tangy white flesh and many seeds. Self fertile. Matures summer.

Mangoes
Mangos are evergreen trees capable of growing to around 4-6m in Perth and are quite hardy, from late spring. Provide shade for young trees for their first two summers, as they require a cool, moist winter to allow their growth. Both grafted and seedling Mangos will begin fruiting at a little as 2 to 3 years after planting. Grafted trees with sometimes fruit a year earlier than seedling grown trees.

Seedling Mango Kensington Pride* (AKA New Norcia Mission) Good low chill variety, suited to the metro and coastal areas. Not suited to inland areas. Has a characteristic slight curve near the base of the fruit, which is traditionally pickled when fully ripe with purple and black in colour. Matures April-May.


Tradition Nectarines
Nectarines are self-fertile and produce fruit in large bunches. They have a crisp, juicy, clingstone flesh. Matures late April to mid June.

Double Grafted Peach/Nectarine – Ornamental: These are low chill varieties and are grown as ornamentals. They require a warm climate to produce fruit. Matures mid-June to mid-September.

Double Grafted Peach/Nectarine – Precocious: These are low chill varieties and are grown as ornamentals. They require a warm climate to produce fruit. Matures mid-June to mid-September.


Dwarf Grafted Apricot – Moorpark/Tevicta: Produces Moorpark Apricot which is a large orange-skinned fruit; maturing late December to early January and Tevicta; medium to large pale apricot coloured skin maturing mid-December.

Double Grafted Nectarine – Goldimine/ May: Double Grafted Goldimine, red blushed skin, white flesh, maturing mid-late January and May, and red skinned with yellow flesh, maturing mid-late December.

Double Grafted Peach – Tasty Zee/Double Jewel – Grafted with two great modern Peaches Tasty Zee with super sweet, white flesh, maturing mid-late January and Double Jewel with red skin and red flesh, maturing late November.

Double Grafted Pear – Packham’s Williams: Grafted with Dartmont, yellow skin, white flesh, maturing mid-January and Packham’s Triumph with pale lemon skin, maturing early-February.

Double Grafted Plum – Flavor Supreme: Mariposa* Grafted with Mariposa, blood red flesh and maroon skin maturing early to mid-February

Malus: Produces seedling, small to medium size fruit with red-blushed, sweet, hard flesh. Matures early March to mid-May.

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Multigrafted Trees

Make the most of limited space and enjoy the fruit of multiple varieties off the same tree!

Double Grafted Fruit Trees

Red Globe: Self-fertile. Produces medium to large red-skinned fruit with red-blushed skin and yellow flesh. Matures mid-June to mid-September.


Crimson: Self-fertile. Produces medium sized fruit with red skin and red blushed flesh. Matures mid-June to mid-September.


Majesty: Self-fertile. Produces fruit similar to Chester, maturing mid-June to mid-September. Non suckering. Matures late May.


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**Pears**

**Traditional Pears**

Pears are tall vigorous trees growing to 4-6m. Pears need a long season, plenty of water and a warm climate.

*Barlett* (also known as Williams): Produces medium large, white-fleshed fruit with smooth skin. *A high yielding, large-fruited pear.* Matures late November to late February.


**Nashi**:

*Nashi* 20th Century

*20th Century*: A large, upright tree due to its plum and cherry habit and large sized nuts. *Very limited available.*

**Dwarf Pears**

*Beurre d’Echire*: A highly ornamental, upright tree due to its plum and cherry habit and large sized nuts. *Very limited available.*


**Macadamia Nuts**

Macadamia nuts are self-fertile and are fairly large nuts. Grafted Macadamia Trees grafter reliable Macadamia selections. Grafted trees start producing nuts after about 5 years. Nuts fall from February to September. Limited seasonal availability.

**Walnuts**

*Frantique*: Richous cold winters, suited to Perth hills and inland southwest. A high yielding, brilliantly coloured, big nut. Matures September to November.

**Strawberries**

Grow your own delicious strawberies. Our container grown plants are ideal for planting up your pots, hanging baskets or your own strawberry patch.

**Citrus Fruits**

Citrus fruits are a must for the home garden. Citrus trees are a very popular choice for gardeners and are available as dwarf or semi dwarf trees. Traditional citrus trees generally grow to between 4-6m, but can be kept to 3-4m. dwarf citrus trees, these are ideal for large tubs and smaller gardens. Lemon trees can grow to more than 4m and semi dwarf- citrus trees.

**Lemons**

*The indispensable home fruit. Everyone needs a lemon tree.*

**Hazelnuts**

*Matured for cooler districts. Hazelnuts are suckering shrubs forming a thick layer. They can grow to 3-4m. Height* A great, hardy family variety. Fast growing. Suitable for pots and basements. Pollinates with Confetti. *Grows to 4x3m.*

**Quince**

Quinces are hardy fruits noted for their showy display of white blossoms in spring and late season, golden skinned aromatic fruit. Quinces produce attractive foliage and grow into small trees of around 3x3m. They are worthy growing just to make your own home-made Quince preserves.

**Smyrna**:

Produces large, roughly pear shaped fruit. A vigorous, productive tree, even at young ages. Matures Mid-October.

**Red Sensation**:

A self-pollinating variety producing very sweet, very hard-skinned fruit. Matures late March to early April.

**Seedling Chestnut**:

Grown from the seed collected from the sweet and tangy fruit. Matures June to July.

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Fruit Tree Establishment and Care

For Established Trees: The most important fertilising times are late winter-early spring and again in early autumn. Spring is the most important feeding time as trees do the bulk of their growing over the spring to early summer period. Always feed with quality all purpose or specialist fruit fertilisers like Eco-Growth Prime Garden, Dawson’s All Purpose Fertiliser or Seairles Fruit and Citrus Food. Apply fertiliser at recommended rates, evenly below and out some distance from the canopy (tree roots actually extend much further than the area below the canopy). Whenever adding fertiliser, don’t apply to dry soil and make sure fertiliser is well watered in.

Pruning

The main aim of fruit tree pruning is to establish a framework of productive fruit bearing branches, remove dead or diseased wood, inter-twined branches, thin over crowded branches and to control height. Fruit trees are generally maintained to a height of about 2.5-3m, this allows for easy harvest and maintenance.

Generally deciduous fruit trees are pruned in winter and it’s a good idea to seal pruning cuts with a pruning paint.

If you are unsure of where flower buds are, wait till flowering time and prune then. Always make angled cuts, above dead or diseased wood, inter-twined branches, thin over crowded branches and to control height. Fruit trees are generally maintained to a height of about 2.5-3m, this allows for easy harvest and maintenance.

Preventative Spraying is often a good idea to protect fruit trees, some recommended treatments are:

For Citrus Leaf Miner - Spray trees fortnightly during peak growth periods when citrus ‘flush’ with new growth. The light film of oil will protect developing foliage as it matures. Spray with Eco-Oil. A trap is also available, the eco-CLM trap. The trap uses pheromones to attract and trap male citrus leaf miner wasps and prevents them from mating with females. Fewer females reduces the overall population giving better protection for your citrus trees.

To prevent various fungal diseases on deciduous fruit trees - Spray trees twice a year, in autumn at leaf fall and in spring at early budswell stage. Spray with Yates Liquid copper or Fungus Fighter.

To prevent Powdery Mildew on Grape Vines - Spraying should take place at intervals of 2, 4 and 6 weeks after budburst and again just before flowering. Foliage must be monitored for the rest of the season and extra sprays carried out if required. Spray with Eco-Fungicide (used in conjunction with Eco-Oil).

To prevent Leaf Curl in Peaches and Nectarines - Spraying to prevent Peach Leaf Curl is essential. Spray in late winter-early spring, at the early budswell stage. Suitable sprays include Yates Liquid Copper.

Fruit Tree Fly Control - Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) is the number one pest of fruit trees in W.A. To control Medfly, we need a community approach. The effects of this make not only help reduce Medfly in your garden but the whole fruit growing community. The best approach is to control Medfly year-round, at any stage, including trapping, bait spraying, exclusion and good hygiene practices. Remember together we can beat Medfly! For more see medflychallenge.com

Fruit Tree Trapping - is easy to do. It works by attracting fruit flies with bait mixtures. The smell of the liquid bait mixture attracts fruit flies onto the trap. Unable to escape they drown in the liquid. For best Medfly control you need to be using trapping year round.

Home-Made Fruit Fly Traps - Try making your own out of used plastic soft drink or milk bottles*. Melt or drill 1-2 holes about 10mm wide. Above and below the holes, stick on a bias at bright yellow duck or masking tape. Fill bottles to at least one third with a mixture of protein and a sugar source such, as beer and Vegemite. A popular recipe is 1 litre of water, 1/8ts of cloudy ammonia, 1/8 tsp of vanilla essence and 100g of white sugar. Hang baits at about 1.5m above the ground. Remember to replace bait liquid every few weeks. Ideally hang two traps per tree. Also place traps in a few non-fruiting trees and in plants close to the neighbour’s fence as decoys to keep Medfly away from your fruiting plants. ”As a precaution it’s a good idea to soak labels off any old bottles or containers you use.

Cera Trap - is a ready to use, organic, pesticide free fruit fly trap. Cera Trap contains a unique protein based liquid solution that is very attractive to fruit flies. Continue to work for 3-4 months. Recommended background application rate is 1 Cera Trap per fruit tree. Refill packs of the bait solution are available.

Bait Spraying - Eco-Naturalure® is an organic certified product for fruit fly control. The product is a mix of a protein attractant and the chemical Spinosad (based on a naturally occurring bacteria). The attracted Medfly are poisoned by ingesting the bait mixture. The product is applied by using a combination of techniques (in conjunction with Eco-Oil).

To break the Medfly life-cycle, as the larvae, pupate in the bottom of the tree. It can also be applied to small, preferably yellow boards, made from any suitable non porous material and hung in the middle section of the canopy. Only small amounts of bait solution are needed (see packaging for further information). It is best to commence bait spraying immediately after flower drop. Winter is another key time to commence spraying as the Medfly is inactive. Eco-Naturalure® must be re-applied at weekly intervals.

Exclusion Netting and Bags - Provide a physical barrier to fruit fly, so if you net or bag fruit, as soon as possible (after flowering), you end up with perfect fruit. Don’t let netting or bags touch the fruit, as if they do, the fly can still sting the fruit. Exclusion while effective doesn’t reduce Medfly numbers, so it should always be used in conjunction with other control techniques.

Good Hygiene – Remove and dispose of Medfly infested and excess fruit before it falls to the ground. Also remove any fallen fruit as soon as possible. Then kill Medfly larvae in damaged fruit by putting in tightly sealed plastic bags and leaving out in the sun for a few days, or by freezing, boiling or soaking. This is one of the most effective ways to break the Medfly life cycle, as the larva, pupate in the ground before they emerge as a fly adult. If disposing of treated fruit through the rubbish, place in tightly sealed bags before putting in the bin. For more ways of treating and disposing of affected fruit see medflychallenge.com

This is a Fly Zone is an action package supported by The University of Western Australia and Plant Biosecurity CRC. Dawson’s acknowledges the work of Rachel Davison and Rachel Davison in compiling the Medfly Control section.

Need To Know More?
www.dawsonsgardenworld.com.au
Our friendly staff are happy to advise you about selecting and growing fruiting plants - just ask! Or email askdawsons@dawsonsgardenworld.com.au

Position: Generally all fruit trees do best in full sun positions.

Planting Fruit Trees:

Container Grown Trees – When planting any fruit tree, give it a good soak before removing it from the container. Soil improvement at planting time is vital. Dig a hole at least 60cm wide by 60cm deep. Blend one part Dawson’s Organic Soil Improver with two parts soil removed from the hole. Add a handful of Apex slow release fertiliser and mix in well. Return some of this mix to the bottom of the hole. Remember to set the plant in the hole no deeper than the soil level in the container and then backfill soil mix around the roots. Use any left over soil to make a shallow well around the plant. This will help retain water and protect the root system. Newly planted fruit trees are very vulnerable to drying out. To avoid this, ensure adequate watering is provided during the critical establishment period.

Bare Root Trees - These are dormant trees sold during winter. When taken out of the pots the soil will usually fall off the roots. Use soil improver to get them off to a flying start (see planting container trees). Make a round of soil in the bottom of the hole. Take your bare root tree and place the roots in the soil so that they fan out over the mound. Before back filling the rest of the soil mix, check the tree is planted to the right level. Often the soil stain on the stem will indicate the correct level to plant the tree. The bud union should be above the soil level. It’s a good time to add a stake now, as you can see where the roots are. Then backfill the rest of the soil mix and water in well.

Watering

When watering established fruit trees, 2-3 deep waterings a week is the minimum. When establishing trees extra watering for the first summer will be essential. Water young trees every second day for their first season, in their second year in the garden, 2 deep soaks twice a week will do. Soil wetting agents like Eco-Wet allow water to penetrate into water repellent, sandy soils. Apply at planting time and repeat every six months later. Or, for a more permanent fix, try the kaolinite clay based, soil builder Soil Solver.

Staking

Many fruit trees, particularly those planted as bare rooted plants, will require staking for the initial establishment period. Plants should be loosely tied to stakes and generally stakes can be removed about three to five months after planting.

Mulching

All fruit trees will benefit from maintaining a weed/ grass free area around them. You can further benefit your trees by applying a mulch around them (but remember not to mulch right up to the trunk of the tree as this can cause collar rot). Suitable mulching materials include garden compost, wood chips, coarse grade bark and straw. Mulch to a depth of at least 5-10cm thick.

Fertilising

For The First Season: Sprinkle 50gms (one adult handful of Apex Slow Release Fertiliser in with the backfill soil at planting time. No other fertiliser is required until growth commences. Supplement this by adding 50gms of a balanced all purpose fertiliser, such as Dawson’s All Purpose Fertiliser every 5 weeks for the first growing season (spring through till autumn).

© This guide written by Tim Parker, Dawson’s Garden World Forrestfield. 05/15
Forrestfield: 170 Hale Road Ph 9453 6533 Fax 9453 9520
Joondalup: 179 Winton Road Ph 9300 0733 Fax 9300 1244
O’Connor: 388 South Street Ph 9314 7258 Fax 9314 7264
Swanbourne: 153 Railway Street Ph 9384 9652 Fax 9383 2108
Email: askdawsons@dawsonsgardenworld.com.au www.facebook.com/dawsonsgardenworld for more great ideas www.dawsonsgardenworld.com.au

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