



EXTENSION
College of Agriculture,
Biotechnology & Natural Resources

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SP-20-07

University of Nevada, Reno Extension Research Orchard Fruit Evaluations & Recommendations for Southern Nevada - 2020

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Small-space Orchards

A backyard orchard does not require a lot of space. Scientists and backyard orchardists are studying different tree rootstocks and specialized pruning practices to create small fruit trees with high yields.

Selection of a dwarfing rootstock and proper pruning allows control of tree size:

- Ultra-dwarf trees are great patio choices, as they are 3 to 6 feet tall and wide at maturity.
- Dwarf fruit trees will grow 10 feet tall and wide, depending on the environment and pruning techniques.
- Semi-dwarf trees will reach 12 to 15 feet tall and wide. Once semi-dwarf fruit trees are bearing fruit, a 6-foot-tall person can harvest most of the fruit using a small stepladder.
- Standard trees are the largest, generally growing from 18 to 30 feet tall. They are rarely planted anymore because much of the fruit cannot be reached easily. See care section.

To give trees the best start, select a good location. Fruit trees require at least eight hours of full sun in order to be productive.

Good water drainage is critical. In most cases, fruit trees do not need supplemental fertilizers, as long as the soil is amended with quality compost, which will feed the tree slowly and naturally. While neutral soils (approximately pH 7) would be ideal, southern Nevada soils have a pH around 8. Any fruit trees can tolerate a pH that is high.

At the Research Orchard, trees are surrounded with a berm and watered using bubbler irrigation. Spraying the foliage with water every few weeks may help to suppress mites, aphids and other insect pests.

Research Center and Demonstration Orchard History

Fruit trees were originally planted at the North Las Vegas Research Center site in 1997. Fruit trees are grown in 8-foot-by-10-foot spacings in orchard rows. All trees were planted as bare-root plants and amended with compost at the time of planting. Wood mulch covers the surface of the orchard to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Fruit trees are pruned annually to heights of 6 ½ to 7 feet to keep the orchard “ladder-less.”

The orchard follows the principles of integrated pest management. Although not a certified organic orchard, pesticides used are organic in nature, following a least toxic and sustainable philosophy. Research Center volunteers, consisting of Master Gardeners and community members, perform most of the work. After studies of a particular cultivar have been completed, trees are replaced with other test cultivars to gather information on what types will grow and produce best in the Mojave Desert.

Evaluations Categories

Evaluation trials were conducted originally from 2005 to 2009, and then from 2010 to 2018. Fruit evaluations were compiled through taste and tree evaluations. Taste evaluations were conducted periodically and included color, shape, texture, taste and brix of the fruit. Evaluations of the trees themselves were made throughout the year and included their performance and general health at the Extension Research Orchard located at 4600 Horse Drive in North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Top Choice lists those trees providing exceptional fruit and tree health; *Notable Mention* identifies those that provided very good fruit and very good health in southern Nevada’s climate; and *Under Review* names those that have not been growing long enough for multiple year evaluations or for which results have been inconsistent.

Care and Maintenance

Proper care and pruning are essential to the health of fruit trees and shrubs. To prevent sunburn and pests from getting into the bark, young trees are painted with a thinned white latex paint.



Peach Spring Bloom in Orchard.

To prevent pest infestation, dormant oils are applied to fruit trees in winter after pruning, but before bud break. Pruning is also performed as needed in the summer and dormant seasons. In the spring and summer, some pruning is done to train young trees and to shorten the time to full fruit production. On mature trees, summer pruning mainly involves removing vigorous upright shoots that are not needed as permanent branches and thinning shoots to control tree height and develop branches. Tree size is dictated by variety, root stock and pruning practices. Keep trees to a height that is manageable by pruning accordingly. Fruit also needs to be thinned to encourage maturation of larger-sized fruit. Extension offers multiple opportunities for classes in these areas throughout the year.

Other pest control methods include tying Mylar ribbon or hanging old compact disks in the trees to deter birds. Proper pruning is another way to prevent problems, such as disease, sunscald and insect pests.

Harvest Times for Southern Nevada

Harvest times are listed as very early, early, early-mid, mid, mid-late, late or very late season. While temperatures can affect harvest times, generally this is when harvesting would take place:

- very early season: first to second week of May
- early season: mid-May to mid-June
- early-mid season: second to fourth week of June
- mid-season: third to fourth week of June to early July
- mid-late season: mid-July to first week in August
- late season: mid-September to second week of October
- very late season: mid-October to mid-November

ALMOND TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Almonds do extremely well in southern Nevada and make excellent landscape trees.					
TOP CHOICE					
All in One – No. 1	Soft, flavorful	Mid (hot summer required to ripen)	Varies	Self-fruitful	300-400
Carmel	High-quality, soft	Mid to late	Large	Pollinizer required, such as Nonpareil; susceptible to bud Failure	400
Garden Prince	Sweet, tasty	Mid to late	Large	Self-fruitful	250

APPLE TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Not all apples do well in southern Nevada, and range from “best apple ever tasted” to “tasteless,” depending on variety.					
TOP CHOICE					
Dorsett Golden	Firm, sweet, very flavorful	Early	Large	Self-fruitful	100
Pink Lady (Cripps Pink)	Crisp, sweet tart	Very late (long hot summer required to ripen)	Medium	Self-fruitful	300-400
Mutsu (Crispin)	Very crisp, flavorful	Mid to late	Large	Red Delicious, Granny Smith, Fuji, Gala	500
NOTABLE MENTION					
Anna	Sweet, crisp, flavorful	Early	Medium	Self-fruitful or pollinized by Dorsett Golden or Einshemer	200
Arkansas Black Spur	For dessert and cooking	Late to very late	Medium-to-Large	Partly self-fruitful	500-600
Fuji	Sweet, crisp texture	Late	Medium	Excellent pollinizer for other apple varieties; self-fruitful	<500
Gordon	Crisp, tart-sweet, flavorful	Mid to late	Medium-to-Large	Self-fruitful	400
Granny Smith	Crisp, tart-sweet, flavorful	Very late	Large	Self-fruitful; good pollinizer for other apple trees	700
Sundowner	Sweet, crisp	Mid-late to late	Small	Self-fruitful	200-300
UNDER REVIEW					
• Liberty		• King		• Scarlet Sentinel	

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

APRICOT TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Most apricots do well in southern Nevada and are flavorful.					
TOP CHOICE					
Blenheim (Royal)	Sweet, freestone	Early-mid (mild weather)	Medium	Self-fruitful	<400
Gold Kist	Sweet with hint of tartness, freestone	Very early	Medium	Self-fruitful	300
Moorpark	Rich flavor	Early	Medium	Self-fruitful	600
Royal Rosa	Sweet, low-acid flavor	Very early (May)	Medium	Self-fruitful	500
NOTABLE MENTION					
Canadian White Blenheim	Syrupy, sweet, firm	Mid	Medium	Other late-blooming apricot	700
Chinese (Morman)	Sweet	Early	Small to Medium	Self-fruitful	700
Early Golden	Sweet, rich flavor	Early	Large	Self-fruitful	<300
Earli-Autumn	Wonderful flavor	Late	Small to Medium	Self-fruitful	<500
Flora Gold	Good quality, freestone	Early		Self-fruitful	<400
Goldcot	Juicy with tangy flavor	Early	Medium	Self-fruitful	800
Harcot	Sweet, juicy, rich flavor	Mid	Medium to Large	Self-fruitful	700
Katy	Sweet flesh, tart skin, freestone	Very early	Large	Self-fruitful	200-300
Tomcot	Sweet flesh, slightly tart	Very early	Large	Partly self-fruitful; largest crops if pollinized by another apricot	<500

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.



**APRICOTS
AND MANY OTHER STONE
FRUIT PRODUCE EXCELLENT
FRUIT IN THIS REGION.**

Although many different kinds of fruit trees do not need pollinizer trees for fruit production, yields are often increased when there is a pollinizer nearby.



Apricot Ripening in North Las Vegas.

APRIUM TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Aprium is an apricot/plum hybrid that does extremely well in southern Nevada.					
TOP CHOICE					
Cot-N-Candy	Very sweet, juicy	Early to mid-July	Medium	Self-fruitful	<400
Flavor Delight	Distinctive flavor and texture	Very early	Medium	Self-fruitful, but larger crops when pollinized by another apricot	<300
Leah Cot	Rich apricot flavor	Very early	Medium	Self-fruitful	800

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

ASIAN PEAR TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Asian pears perform well in the southern Nevada climate. They do require a pollinizer. Fruit is often smaller than in other regions.					
TOP CHOICE					
Shinko	Juicy, sweet, flavorful	Mid-late to late	Medium	Hosui, Chojuro, Kikusui, Bartlett	450
Tsu Li	Light, sweet taste	Late	Medium	Ya Li	300
Ya Li	Spicy, refreshing	Mid-late to late August	Medium	Tsu Li	300
NOTABLE MENTION					
Chojuro	Spicy, refreshing	Mid to Late	Medium	Hosui, Shinko	450
Hosui	Very sweet	Mid to late	Small	Shinko, Chojuro, Bartlett, 20 th Century	300-400
Kikusui	Sweet, juiciest	Mid	Small	Partly self-fruitful or 20 th Century	500
Shinseiki	Sweet, juicy, crisp	Mid to mid-late	Small	Self-fruitful	200-300
20 th Century	Very sweet, crisp, juicy	Mid	Medium	Shinseiki, Bartlett or other pear	300-400
UNDER REVIEW					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seigyoku 					

BLACKBERRIES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Blackberries struggle in the southern Nevada climate and soils, but produce acceptable fruit. They tend to become invasive.					
TOP CHOICE					
No top varieties are listed because blackberries prefer nondesert climates.					
NOTABLE MENTION					
Rosborough (thorned)	Sweet	Very early to early	Large	Self-fruitful	NA
Womack (thorned)	Sweet	Very early	Small	Self-fruitful	NA

CACTUS, NOPAL	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Cacti are used as fresh vegetables, and fruit (Tunas) can be eaten fresh or made into syrups or jams.					
TOP CHOICE					
Copena F1		Year-round	Medium	Self-fruitful	NA
Copena V1		Year-round	Medium	Self-fruitful	NA

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

CHERRY TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
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Cherries are not reliable in southern Nevada. Cherries generally need more chilling hours and higher humidity than the desert offers. This is true for both sweet and sour cherries.

CHERRY PLUM TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
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Cherry Plum is a hybrid between cherry plum and Japanese plum.

TOP CHOICE

Delight	Tangy, cling	Early to mid	Medium	Sprite	400
Sprite	Sweet, freestone	Mid	Small to medium	Delight	400

FIG TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
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Most fig trees do well in southern Nevada but require more water than most fruit trees.

TOP CHOICE

Black Mission	Rich flavor, two crops per year	Mid to mid-late	Large	Self-fruitful	100
Brown Turkey	Sweet	Mid-late (may have two fruiting seasons)	Large	Self-fruitful	100
Janice (white fig)	Sweet, practically no seeds	Mid to late	Large	Self-fruitful	100
Panache (tiger)	Especially fine flavor	Mid to late	Small to medium	Self-fruitful	100

NOTABLE MENTION

Kadota (green skinned)	Very sweet	Late (needs hot weather to ripen)	Large	Self-fruitful	100
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UNDER REVIEW

- Black Jack
- Celestial
- Corky's Honey Delight
- Desert King
- White Genoa

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.



The internal flowers of a fig.



Fig trees have large leaves.



Wine grapes almost ready to pick.

Although figs require more water than some other fruits, they grow well in the desert and are delicious. Protect them from birds.

Many varieties of grapes, both table and wine, produce delicious fruit. Many growers find that bird netting can keep pest problems down.

GRAPES – TABLE (EUROPEAN)	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Nearly all grapes do well in southern Nevada’s desert climate.					
TOP CHOICE					
Fantasy	Sweet	Late June to July	Large	Self-fruitful	100
Flame (Red Flame)	Sweet	Late June to July	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Himrod (green)	Sweet, flavorful	Early to Mid	Small	Self-fruitful	100
Princess (green)	Sweet, grown wild	Mid to late	Large	Self-fruitful	100
Summer Muscot (wine)	Very sweet, seedless	Late June to July	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	100
Thompson Seedless	Sweet white grape	Late June to July	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
NOTABLE MENTION					
Black Monnuka	Sweet black grape	July-August	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Blush (red)	Acidic	July-August	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Crismson Seedless	Acidic red grape	July-August	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Italia (seeded wine)	Sweet and musky	July-August	Extra large	Self-fruitful	100
NOT RECOMMENDED					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perlette 					

GRAPES - WINE	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Many wine grapes are very productive in southern Nevada’s hot climate and poor soils, usually maturing during the last week in July. Most need fewer than 150 chill hours.					
TOP CHOICE					
Cabernet Sauvignon (red)	High acid, tannic	Mid to late	Small	Self-fruitful	100
Italia (white)	Light, sweet	Mid to late	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Petite Syrah (red)	Powerful, tannic	Mid to late	Small	Self-fruitful	100
Sauvignon Blanc (white)	Fruity, acidic	Mid to late	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Syrah (red)	Dry red wine grape	Mid to late	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Summer Muscot (green)	Very sweet, seedless	Late June to July	Medium to Large	Self-fruitful	100

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

Tempranillo (red)	Savory cherry notes	Mid to Late Summer	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Viognier (white)	Complex flavor in compact bunches	Mid-July	Small	Self-fruitful	100
Zinfandel (red)	Fruity	Mid to Late Summer	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
NOTABLE MENTION					
Barberra (red)	High-acid	Mid to late	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	100
Merlot (red)	Chocolate flavor	Mid to late	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Pinot Noir (red)	Light flavor	Mid	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
Primitivo (red)	Same family as Zinfandel, cherry/plum flavor, tannic	Mid to late	Medium	Self-fruitful	100
UNDER REVIEW					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carignan 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Columbard (Columbard) 		
NOT RECOMMENDED					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chardonnay • Grenache • Grenache Noir 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sangiovese • Syrah Noir 		

*Grape size varies with age of canes, whether the fruit bunches have been thinned and cultural practices.

INTERSPECIFIC HYBRIDS					
	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
NECTAPLUM					
Spice Zee	Nectarine and plum traits	Mid to mid-late	Medium	Self-fruitful	200-300, high chill also
PEACOTUM					
Bella Gold	Tart skin, mildly sweet	Mid	Medium	Blenheim Apricot or Flavor Grenade Pluot	500
PLUMCOT					
Plum Parfait	Unique blend of plum and apricot, freestone	Early	Small to medium	Self-fruitful	400

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

JUJUBE TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Also known as Chinese Date or Indian Fig, Jujube does very well in southern Nevada's climate as it is drought resistant and virtually pest and disease-free.					
TOP CHOICE					
Contorted	Chewy sweetness	Late	Medium	Partly self-fruitful or Lang	150
Li	Sweet, chewy	Late (needs long hot summer)	Large	Self-fruitful	150
NOTABLE MENTION					
Lang	Sweet, chewy, pear-shaped	Late	Medium	Li or other Jujube	150

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.



Ripe peaches.

NECTARINE TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Nectarines do well in southern Nevada, but vary in fruit quality and flavor.					
TOP CHOICE					
Arctic Star (white)	Super sweet, Semi-freestone	Very early	Large	Self-fruitful	300
NOTABLE MENTION					
Arctic Rose (white)	Super sweet, crunchy	Mid	Large	Self-fruitful	600-700
Desert Dawn	Juicy, semi-freestone	Very early	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	250
Desert Delight	Rich, tangy flavor	Early	Large	Self-fruitful	100-200
Double Delight	Best-flavored freestone	Mid	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	300
UNDER REVIEW					
• Arctic Gold		• Arctic Jay		• Liz's Late	

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

PEACH TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Peaches do extremely well in southern Nevada's climate and have received praise from internationally recognized chefs.					
TOP CHOICE					
Babcock (white)	Mild, low-acid, candy-like sweetness, freestone	Mid	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	250-300
Donut Saturn (Stark's Saturn) a.k.a. Saucer	Mild, sweet, almond-like	Early to mid	donut-shaped	Self-fruitful	200-300
Eva's Pride	Fine-flavored, freestone	Early	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	100-200
May Pride (red)	Sweet, tangy, juicy, semi-freestone	Very early to early	Very large	Self-fruitful	150-200
Mid Pride	Sweet, juicy, freestone	Mid	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	250
NOTABLE MENTION					
Desert Gold	Good flavor, sweet cling	Very early to early	Medium	Self-fruitful	
Early Amber	Full flavor, semi-freestone	Very early	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	300-350
Early Elberta/July Elberta a.k.a. Kim	Juicy, rich flavor, freestone	Mid	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	400-500
Earlitreat	Flavor and sweetness like mid-season varieties	Very early	Medium	Self-fruitful	<500
Flordaprince	Tart, sweet, semi-freestone	Very early	Large	Self-fruitful	150
Kaweah	Delicious, true peach flavor	Mid to late	Large	Self-fruitful	500
Red Baron	Juicy, firm, freestone	Mid	Large	Self-fruitful	250-300
Sauzee Swirl Saucer	Sweet white peach, cling	Early	Medium	Self-fruitful	400
Suncrest	Fine-flavored, freestone	Mid to mid-late	Large	Self-fruitful	500
UNDER REVIEW					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double Jewel • Elegant Lady 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fay Elberta • Fairtime 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gleason Elberta • Harken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rio Oso Gem • Snow Beauty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Snow Giant • Snow King 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strawberry Free • Sugar Lady

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

MINIATURE PEACH TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Miniature peaches are typically peaches that are genetic dwarfs. Fruit quality is seldom comparable to that of standard peach trees.					
NOTABLE MENTION					
Pix Zee	Delicious, freestone	Mid	Large	Self-fruitful	<400
UNDER REVIEW					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honey Babe Eldorado 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Garden Gold Garden Sun 		

EUROPEAN PEAR TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
European pears produce tasty fruit but may not have the same visual appearance as commercially grown pears.					
TOP CHOICE					
Kieffer	Sprightly flavor, coarse texture	Late	Medium to large	Self-fruitful; resists fire blight	200-300
NOTABLE MENTION					
Bartlett	World's most popular pear	Mid to late	Large	Self-fruitful	500-600
California	Red-skinned, excellent	Late	Large	Self-fruitful	500-600
Comice	Sweet, aromatic, fine texture, superb flavor and quality – one of the best	Late	Large	Self-fruitful in most Western U.S. climates or Bartlett	600
Sensation Red Bartlett	Red-skinned, high quality	Mid to late	Large	Self-fruitful in most Western U.S. climates, resists fire blight	700
Seckel	Sweet flavor, spicy	Mid to late	Medium	Self-fruitful; does not cross pollinate with Bartlett	500
UNDER REVIEW					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bosc 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> D'Anjou 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warren 	

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

PERSIMMON TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Persimmon fruit is excellent quality but can suffer from sun damage. Requires frequent irrigation, amended soil and protection from wind.					
TOP CHOICE					
Chocolate	Spicy sweet, astringent until ripe	Late	Medium, Oblong-shape	Self-fruitful	200
Coffee Cake a.k.a. Nishimura Wase	Spicy sweet	Late	Medium, Oblong-shape	Gusho or Chocolate	<200
Fuyu (Jiro) a.k.a. Apple Persimmon	Non astringent, crunchy when ripe	Late	Medium, flat-shaped	Self-fruitful	200
NOTABLE MENTION					
Hachiya	Sweet, flavorful, astringent	Very late	Large, acorn-shaped	Self-fruitful	200
UNDER REVIEW					
• Giant Fuyu		• Niunai		• Tamopan	

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

PLUM TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Plums do well in southern Nevada, provided they are protected from borers. Most common are Japanese plums.					
TOP CHOICE					
Emerald Beauty	Exceptionally sweet	Mid to late	Medium to large	Beauty, Burgundy, Late Santa Rosa, Nubiana, Flavor King Pluot	600-700
Late Santa Rosa	Moderately sweet	Mid to late	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	<400
Santa Rosa	Juicy, tangy and flavorful	Early-mid	Medium	Self-fruitful	300
NOTABLE MENTION					
Beauty	Sweet, flavorful	Early	Medium	Self-fruitful	250
Burbank	Firm, sweet, juicy	Mid to late	Medium	Santa Rosa	400
Burgundy	Sweet, mild, semi-freestone	Mid to late	Large	Self-fruitful	300
Catalina	Sweet, juicy, firm	Mid to late	Medium	Self-fruitful	300-400
Elephant Heart	Sweet, rich, juicy flavor tastes like a pluot	Mid	Large, heart-shaped	Beauty or Santa Rosa	<500
Methley	Sweet, juicy, mild	Very early	Medium	Self-fruitful	<250
Laroda	Juicy, rich flavors	Mid	Medium to large	Santa Rosa, Late Santa Rosa, Nubiana, Burgundy	400
NOT RECOMMENDED					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Improved • Green Gage 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nubiana 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shiro • Superior 	

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

. PLUOT TREES	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Pluot is a very complex hybrid of apricot and plum that has developed a very high sugar content and complex flavor when tree ripened.					
TOP CHOICE					
Flavor King	Very sweet, spicy, taste-test winner	Mid to late	Medium to large	Flavor Supreme, Santa Rosa, Dapple Dandy, Late Santa Rosa	<400
Flavor Queen	Candy-like sweetness	Mid	Medium to large	Flavor Supreme Pluot, Dapple Dandy Pluot, Santa Rosa Plum (not by Flavor King)	400-500
Flavor Supreme	Sweet, taste test winner!	Early-mid	Medium to large	Santa Rosa, Late Santa Rosa, Flavorosa, Flavor Queen, Geo Pride	700-800
Flavorosa	Sweet mild	Very early		Emerald Drop, Pluot, Mariposa Plum	250
Geo Pride	Sweet	Early-mid	Medium	Self-fruitful	
Splash	Very sweet	Mid	Small to medium	Santa Rosa, Flavor Grenade Pluot	<400
NOTABLE MENTION					
Dapple Dandy	Taste-test winner, up there with Flavor King	Mid to late	Large	Flavor Supreme, Flavor King, Santa Rosa, Catalina, Burgundy	400-500
Emerald Drop	Early fruit is firm, but juicy and sweet, later is honey sweet	Mid (prolonged harvest)	Medium to large	Flavor Grenade or Santa Rosa	<400
Flavor Finale	Complex flavor	Mid to late	Large	Santa Rosa, Flavor Grenade, Burgundy	500
NOT RECOMMENDED					
Flavor Grenade					

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

POMEGRANATE	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Pomegranates grow wonderfully in southern Nevada and produce superior fruit. Pomegranates grow 8 to 10 feet as large shrubs, small trees or espalier (prune to keep lower).					
TOP CHOICE					
Eversweet	Very sweet, seedless	Late		Self-fruitful	150
Sharp Velvet	Refreshing flavor		Large	Self-fruitful	150-200
Sweet	Sweeter than Wonderful	Very late		Self-fruitful	100
Utah Sweet	Spicy sweet			Self-fruitful	100-200
Wonderful (common commercial variety)	Tangy flavor	Very late	Large	Self-fruitful	150
NOTABLE MENTION					
Ambrosia	Less acidic	Late	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	150
Grenada	Less tart than Wonderful	Early	Medium	Self-fruitful	150
Parifianka	Sweet with hint of acid	Very late	Large	Self-fruitful	100-200
Pink Satin	Sweet	Very late	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	150-200
Red Silk	Sweet berry flavor	Very late	Medium to large	Self-fruitful	150-200
UNDER REVIEW					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desertnyi • Garnet Sash 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gissarskll Rozovvl • Kara Gull 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kashmir • Sirenevvl 	

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.



Pomegranates grow very well in southern Nevada, both as multi-trunked shrubs and as single or multi-trunked small trees.

RASPBERRY SHRUB	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Raspberries are not recommended in southern Nevada. This climate causes poor production and poor quality.					

QUINCE SHRUB	TASTE QUALITY	HARVEST SEASON	FRUIT SIZE*	POLLINATION	CHILL HOURS
Quince does extremely well in southern Nevada's climate.					
TOP CHOICE					
Pineapple	Tart	Late	Large	Self-fruitful	300
UNDER REVIEW					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orange 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smyrna 		

*Fruit size varies with age of tree, whether the fruit has been thinned and cultural practices.

*This updated evaluation and list of recommendations was completed in 2020 under the direction of M.L. Robinson, specialist and associate professor, Angela O'Callaghan, Ph.D., specialist and associate professor and Louise Ruskamp, orchard manager with University of Nevada, Reno Extension.

The evaluation list was first completed in 2009 by Bob Morris, horticulture specialist, and Jonathon Chodacki, orchard manager, University of Nevada, Reno Extension. It was updated in 2019 by Tamara Wynne, orchard manager, and multiple Master Gardeners. Bob Morris initially provided much assistance in the ongoing management plan of the Extension Research Center.

Many thanks to the many Master Gardeners who have made a great contribution to the success of the orchard.

Much gratitude to Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson Nursery, Maxwell Norton of the University of California, John Arellano of Duarte Nursery. Others who provided assistance include Rick Hefflebower of Utah State University Cooperative Extension and Rob Call of University of Arizona. Also, much appreciation to Tony Valenti of First Choice Tree Service, who provides the wood mulch.

Glossary

Term	Definition	Notes
BRIX	Level of sugar in fruit	Measured as °Bx
Chilling hours	Number of hours between 35°F and 45°F Southern Nevada has approximately 300 to 500 chilling hours per year	Freezing temperatures do not count toward chilling hours
Dilute latex	White latex paint diluted to consistency of skim milk	Acts as a sun screen for bark
Dormant oil	Refined oil applied while tree is dormant (winter) to control insects	Do not apply when plant is in leaf
Fire blight	Bacterial disease that affects apple, pear and other trees	No cure; remove afflicted branches *
Horticultural oil	Highly refined oil to control insects	May be applied when plant is in leaf
Master Gardeners	Volunteers who have completed 80 hours of horticultural training and contribute at least 50 hours annually	Training program is offered annually
Permanent branch	A branch that is not removed; maintaining the shape of a tree canopy	
Pesticides	Insecticide, rodenticide, herbicide, fungicide, algaecide	May be conventional or organic; all are designed to kill
pH	Measure of acidity (or alkalinity)	Range 0 – 14
Pollinator	An insect or animal that carries pollen from one flower to another	
Pollinizer	A plant that provides pollen to another	
Root stock	Tree or shrub is grafted to a root stock for disease/insect control, or to control size	
Interspecific hybrid	A cross between plants of two different species	

* <https://www.unce.unr.edu/publications/files/ho/2001/fs0156.pdf>

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