Best Fruit Trees for the Maritime Northwest

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Easy to Challenging		Challenging to Difficult		Difficult to More Difficult	
•Persimmon	•Elderberry	•Paw paw	•Asian Pear	•European Pear	•Nectarine
•Fig	•Quince	•European Plum	•Plumcot	•Apple	•Apricot
•Medlar	•Cornelian Cherry	•Japanese Plum		•Cherry	•Peach
•Strawberry Tree	•Mulberry				

GOAL:
RIGHT TREE
rootstock, variety selection, pollination
RIGHT PLACE
sun, soil, water, space
RIGHT CARE
planting, pruning, thinning, pest prevention

10 Basic Fruit Tree Needs

#1: Fruit trees need direct sun, 6-8hrs or more everyday.
Best to plant fruit trees in N/S rows, not E/W rows.

#2 Fruit trees need appropriate space.
Fruit trees can be anywhere from 6'-30+' tall.
Mature size determined by rootstock.

#3 Fruit trees need good soil.
Ideal = 2-3' minimum deep, clay loam, no compaction, no stratification, pH 6.0-7.0, carbon, fungal based, well draining.
Prep soil and add amendments up 6-12months prior to planting fruit trees.

#4 Fruit trees need water.
- Young or in pots - keep moist.
- Older or established – 5-20 gallons/week.
- Drip irrigation only, no spray.

#5 Choose dwarfing rootstock, and <u>be specific</u>.
See "**Successful Fruit Tree Varieties for the PNW**" below.

SHORT RIPENING PERIOD =
needs a small number of HEAT UNITS.

LONG RIPENING PERIOD =
needs a large number of HEAT UNITS.

#6 Choose regionally appropriate, disease resistant varieties.
See "**Successful Fruit Tree Varieties for the PNW**" below.
- If you can buy that variety at the store, think twice before growing it at home in the Willamette Valley.
- Most commercial varieties are grown east of the Cascades where it is generally a warmer/drier climate.
- Ripening period = The period of time a fruit needs to reach mature size and become ripe for harvest. Varies by species/variety of fruit tree.

Successful Fruit Tree Varieties for the PNW

APPLE

<u>**Resistant to Apple Scab (* also powdery mildew resistant)**</u>
Akane*, Chehalis*, Liberty*, Prima, Pristine*, Tydeman's Red, Tydeman's Lt. Orange, Ecollette, PRI 176-1, Wynoochee Early*, Redfree, Dayton*, Freedom, Priscilla, Nova Easy Gro, William's Pride*, Sansa, Enterprise*, Goldrush

<u>**AVOID (highly mildew susceptible)**</u>
Braeburn, Jonathan, Rome, Newtown, Granny Smith, Gravenstein

<u>**Recommended Rootstocks:**</u>
M7
- 50% of standard, 12-18'
- does not need support
- good in heavy soils

M26
- 25% of standard, 8-14'
- often needs staking
- needs well draining soil

M27
- grows to max of 6-8'
- needs staking
- early, heavy bearer but must remove fruit first 2-3 after planting
- can be grown in a container

PEAR

<u>**European (*powdery mildew resistant):**</u>
Conference, Doyenne du Comice, Rescue, Orcas, Bartlett*, Flemish Beauty*, Winter Nelis*, Harrow Delight, Muscat, Brandy (Perry).

<u>**Asian:**</u>
Kosui, most all Asian pears.

<u>**AVOID (very susceptible to pear scab):**</u>
Forelle, Bartlett Red Sensation

<u>**Recommended Rootstocks:**</u>

European Pear:
Old Home x Farmingdale 513, OHxF 513
- 50-70% standard for European pears, 18-25'.
- does not sucker

Asian Pear:
Pyrus betulifolia
- 50-60% of standard = 12-18'
- not recommended to use this rootstock with european pear varieties. It will create a very large 30'+ tall tree.

Successful Fruit Tree Varieties for the PNW continued...

PLUM*	CHERRY
European: Italian, Brooks, Damson, Seneca, Methley, Santa Rosa **Asian:** Shiro, Beauty, Howard's Miracle *Success of these varieties based largely on late blooming times and a tolerance of moderately wet conditions. **Recommended Rootstocks:** Krymsk 1 - 50% standard (20-22' tall) - does well for most peaches, plums. Gisela 5 - 45% of standard (15-20') - productive, little suckering - may require support	**Resistant Varieties (primarily resistant to bacterial canker):** Black Republican, Mazzard, Corum, Regina, Rainier, Sam, Sue, Lapins, Stella, Montmorency **AVOID:** Bing, Lambert, Royal Ann, Van, Napoleon, Sweetheart **Recommended Rootstocks**: Krymsk 5 - can be maintained at 10' - compatible with all cherry varieties Gisela 5 - 45% of standard (15-20') - productive, little suckering - may require support

PERSIMMON	FIG	OTHER FRUIT TREES
Kaki (Asian): Early Fuyu, Early Jiro, Saijo American (very large tree): Early Golden, Meader, Prairie Star	Desert King, Lattarula	Elderberry, Sambucus spp, Sambucus canadensis. Mulberry, Morun alba, Morus rubra, morus nigra. Cornelian Cherry, Cornus mas. Strawberry Tree, Arbutus unedo. Quince, Cydonia oblonga. Medlar, Mespilus germanica.

#7 Fruit trees will need appropriate pruning and training.

PRUNING & TRAINING– WHY?
- Better sunlight and air flow.
- Maximum fruit bearing surface.
- Encourage stronger scaffold branches
  – to hold fruit, snow, ice, human weight.
- Better shape tree for thinning and harvesting fruit.
- Create pleasing and useful shape.
- Pest management is easier.
- Maintain and renew fruiting wood.
- Keep growth and vigor consistent in all parts of the tree.

PRUNING & TRAINING:
When?
How?
What?
Where?
How much?
It depends on the tree!

#8 Fruit trees often need a pollinizer, and always need a pollinator.

Pollination = the transfer of pollen from the male parts/flower to the receptive female part/flower.
Pollinizer = the source of the pollen (diff. variety of tree).
Pollinator = the agent of pollen transfer (bees, flies, etc.).

#9 Most fruit trees need to have their fruit thinned.
- Helps young trees establish roots.
- Helps prevents broken branches.
- Helps even out biennial bearing.
- Limits pest and disease issues.
- Increase fruit quality.

How To - Thin ALL fruit off 1-3 year old trees
- Up to 75% of initial fruit set should be thinned off the tree in spring (May).
- Leave at least 6" between each fruit.

#10 Others will want to share your fruit...(pests, diseases, deer/raccoons/birds, neighbors/kids)...so have a plan and be prepared!

A. Grow healthy trees.
B. Tree Hygiene/Sanitation
- Sanitize tools before pruning between each plant and after cutting diseased branches.
- Rake up and dispose of pruned wood.
- Rake up and dispose of fallen leaves.
- Thin fruit on time (May), clean up all dropped fruit.
- Remove all fruit before winter.
- Consider organic spray schedule if necessary.

Community Resources:	Research Resources:
WSU Master Gardeners OSU Master Gardeners The Home Orchard Society Portland Fruit Tree Project Portland Nursery One Green World Raintree Nursery Burnt Ridge Nursery Whitman Farms	PNW Plant Disease Handbook http://pnwhandbooks.org/plantdisease/ PNW Pest Handbook http://insect.pnwhandbooks.org/ WSU Hortsense http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense/ UCIPM Online http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu/PMG/GARDEN/fruit.html North Willamette Research and Extension Center http://oregonstate.edu/dept/NWREC/programs/berry-crops OSU Publications for Growing Fruit at Home (Home Orchards)

Thank you, and good luck!

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PRUNING & CONSULTATION