

## 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	11-12				frosts at 28-29 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
<b>Blackberry</b>	6-8		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	tart; wonderful jam; various native or wild varieties available
<b>Currant</b>	5-7		x		part shade needed in warmer summer areas; water
Gooseberry	5-7		x		very thorny; lot of cold chill required; part shade ok; tart
<b>Juneberry</b>	5-6		x	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 around 20 F; drought ok
<b>Opuntia</b>	8-11			N	heat and drought ok; easy to grow from cuttings
Pitaya				N	freezes at 28 F; needs heat to ripens
Che	10-11	m & f			called Chinese mulberry; water; warmth needed
Cherimoya	10-5				frosts at 25-28 F; most kinds need hand pollination; needs water
<b>Cherry, Capulin</b>	7-8			N	evergreen landscape tree; takes wind; sandy soil best; fruits in 2 years from seed; frosts at 20 F; needs water
<b>Cherry, Nanking</b>	6-7	x-pol		N	fruits very early; bush-size pie-type cherry; birds love fruit
<b>Cherry, pie</b>	6-7			N	birds love fruit; tart but can hold on bush until sweeter
Cherry, sweet	5-7	most	x		deep soil needed; birds love fruit; fruits early; some self fruitful
Citrus					scented flowers bloom a long time; no pruning needed if dwarf rootstock used; have some thorns; need good drainage; frosts 18-30 F
<b>blood orange</b>	6-7 & 11-4		x		moderate heat is minimum needed for sweeter fruit
grapefruit	winter				most frost sensitive & need most heat of citrus but pummelo-grapefruit cross is ok in cool summer areas
<b>lemon</b>	1-12		x		most to moderate (Meyer) frost sensitive citrus; cooler summers ok
lime			x		most frost sensitive citrus; cooler summers ok
<b>mandarin</b>	12-6		x		moderate heat is minimum need; more cold hardy & drought tolerant
<b>sweet orange</b>	1-12		x		more heat yields sweeter fruit, different varieties can ripen all year
tangelo			x		grapefruit/tangerine cross; more heat needed than for oranges

**Main fruit organizations in West (websites include information, other organizations, nurseries, suppliers & sources of scion wood): California Rare Fruit Growers, North American Fruit Grower, Home Orchard Society**

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
<b>Goumi</b>	5-6			N	few named varieties, mild flavor, slightly sweet with soft pit
<b>Autumn Olive</b>	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 24-27 F; fruits for about a month (3 weeks after flowering); fruits several times
<b>Fig</b>	6-7, 8-11		x		birds love fruit; many need heat to produce sweeter fruit; freezes at 12-15; prune to keep short; gophers lover roots.
<b>Grape</b>	6-11	some	x	x	deep soil best; critters love; easy to grow from stem cuttings
<b>Guava, Lemon &amp; Strawberry</b>	11-12			N	warmth; freezes at 22-25 F but grows back fast; fruit in 2 years; if fruit ripe by October—good flavor but if in November—tart.
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
<b>Jujube</b>	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; freezes at 10
Kiwi, hardy	9-10	m & f	x	x	water; sweeter than regular kiwi; wind damages; freezes at -25
<b>Kumquat</b>	winter		x		fragrant flowers; most cold resistant of citrus-type plants; needs heat
<b>Loquat</b>	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
<b>Mulberry</b>	6-9		x	N	fruit cause stains (except white varieties); birds love; any soil; some drought ok; heat ok; freezes at 25 to -25 F; black mulberry is small tree
Natal plum				N	2" fragrant flowers for several months; thorny; fruit 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 leave curl and other diseases; gets ants which carry aphids; pretty flowers; more heats gives 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 for A. pears
<b>Persimmon, Amer</b>		more F	x		small fruit; free of diseases and pests; drought tolerant; cold hardy
<b>Persimmon, Asian</b>		some	x		freezes at 10 F; long tap root; decorative fruit, heat sweetens
<b>Pineapple guava</b>	10-1	most	x	N	also called feijoa; beautiful & edible flowers; frosts at 5-15 F
<b>Plum, Asian</b>	6-9	some	x		lovely flowers; light or heavy soil ok, fewer chill hours than E. plums
<b>Plum, European</b>	7-9	some	x		lovely flowers; better on heavier soil
Plum, Kalamath	5-7	?			a native plum, small tasty fruit
<b>Pluot/aprium</b>	6-9	x	x		some grow very fast; cross of plum and apricot
<b>Pomegranate</b>	10-11		x	N	beautiful flowers; drought ok; freezes at 12 F; heat sweetens fruit
Quince	fall		x	N	very early flowers; excellent jelly; a new variety can be eaten without cooking; 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; freezes at 10
Rhubarb	5-7		x	N	grows better in colder areas, more red stalks in colder areas, tart
Seaberry	8-9	m & f		N	can take dry, hot and windy conditions; thorny plant; tart fruit
Sapote, white	8			N	lots of fruit; freezes at 21- 25 F; water, better in less heat
<b>Strawberry, hybrids</b>	3-11		x		needs water; light rich soil best; ants and slugs a problem
<b>Strawberry, Alpine</b>	1-12			N	can be drier than regular strawberry; humus & light soil; will self seed
Tree tomato	12-2			N	water ; attracts aphids; should be out of wind; freezes at 25-28
<b>Ugni</b>	8-10	more F		N	Chilean Guava; water; freezes at 15 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](http://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	Gojiberry	Hawthorn	Honeyberry	Kei Apple	Lingonberry
Mango	Medlar	Monstera	Mountain Ash	Palms (some)	Rose Hip	Wampi

