

## 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 different results depending upon the microclimate, variety chosen and willingness to “fuss” with plant. Key factors in choosing fruit suitable for cooler Bay area gardens are less summer heat and lower winter chill requirements.

### 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 mean 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 codling 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	produces in both very hot and cooler areas
<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 and chill; water; better fruit in cooler summer areas
Chokecherry	8-10			N	tart; wonderful jam; various wild varieties available
<b>Currant</b>	5-7		x		part shade needed in warmer summer areas; water
Gooseberry	5-7		x		very thorny; much 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
<b>Raspberry, red</b>	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	more		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 ripen
Che	10-11	m & f			called Chinese mulberry; water; heat 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, chill needed
Cherry, sweet	5-7	most	x		deep soil & chill 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
blood orange	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 cooler 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

**Some fruit groups in West (websites include information, other organizations, nurseries, supplies): California Rare Fruit Growers (CRFG), North American Fruit Grower, (NAFEX), Home Orchard Society, UC Davis Fruit & Nut Research**

<b>Fruit</b>	<b>Pick</b>	<b>X-Pol</b>	<b>Var</b>	<b>Prune</b>	<b>Other</b>
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 very tart; 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 love 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 in cooler area—good flavor but if in November—tart.
Guava, tropical				N	warmth; freezes at 26-29 F; hot summers needed for fruit
Jelly palm	11-12			N	slow growth; small tree; freezes at 15 F, very drought tolerant
<b>Jujube</b>	9-11	moreF	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; difficult
<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		some	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 gives sweeter fruit,
<b>Pear, Asian</b>	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, needs higher chill to fruit
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; one 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; spreads; 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

Check UC Davis website for winter chill summary for number of chill hours as the winter progresses and [www.davewilson.com](http://www.davewilson.com) for chill hours required for some deciduous fruit.

#### Other fruit for Bay Area

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

