Deciduous

Fruit Trees

**for Orange County**

**Laguna Hills Nursery**

www.lagunahillsnursery.com

(714) 542-5600

Success depends upon knowing:

What is the **MINIMUM CHILL REQUIREMENT?**

The majority of deciduous fruit trees evolved in temperate climates and require a period of winter cold in order to produce flowers and fruit. We call this period the **min*imum chill requirement***(**MCR**). Temperate climate trees evolved the MCR to avoid leafing out prematurely during a warm spell in the middle of winter. Trees that evolved in the colder winter climates have a longer MCR than trees the evolved in mild winter climates. The growth buds do not complete development until they experience an entire typical winter. As soon as the MCR is reached the bud will begin growth with the next warm spell. It is the bud itself, not the trunk or roots, that must experience the chill.

Researchers have determined that *Chill* involves the number of hours of exposure to temperatures below 55°F and above 33°F. (Apparently there is no chill value for time spent below 34°F.) The MCR is the minimum number of chill hours (accumulative) that the tree must be exposed to during the fall-winter season for proper flower bud development and subsequent fruiting. Hours spent above 60°F are subtracted. The value of chill varies with the temperature. Maximum chill is received between 36°F and 48°F. Maximum negative chill occurs above 65°F.

Many authorities will explain that the year’s chill value is determined by summing up all the winter’s additions and subtractions; however that total is normally quite low. In my opinion the MCR is like slowly adding water to a cup with a small hole in the bottom. The water is the chill hours accumulating and the size of the hole that water leaks out is the negative chill. The height of the cup represents the variety’s MCR. During periods of intense cold the water adds up very quickly. Once the water spills over the top all bloom and growth systems have been switched on. Growth begins during the next warm spell. By the end of winter the cup’s hole enlarges and the water is no longer near the top.

In the orchards of California’s Central Valley most commercial fruit trees have MCR’s between 500 and 800 hours. Generally we don’t grow many of the same fruit varieties.

In Orange County the lowest chill is found on coastal hilltops (about 200 hours). Most of the flat neighborhoods of central OC get about 350 hours. Riverbeds and canyon floors can easily accumulate 500 hours. Cold air flows like water and accumulates wherever water will.

Cold air has a natural tendency to flow downhill. It is true that the air is cooler at higher elevations (1°F for every 200+ feet) due to reduced atmospheric density, but cold air is heavier and still flows downhill.

Lack of winter heat is more important than the intensity of the cold and we find that coastal locations often get 400 hours. In hilly cities like Mission Viejo, Laguna Niguel, Orange, Tustin, etc. the hilltops may receive only 250 hours but the low spots in these same neighborhoods can average over 400 hours. The bigger the canyon the colder it is at the bottom. Extremely cold air can be found along the Trabuco and San Juan creek beds, as well as at the bottom of Laguna Canyon, in the winter. In 1990 temperatures in San Juan Capistrano fell below 20°F!

The typical residential yard has several microclimates. A tree on the exposed south wall of a home may receive only half the chill hours compared to a tree on the shaded north side. House walls can radiate heat to a nearby tree while a grass lawn can cool a tree. Cold air collects behind walls and fences.

When growing varieties with marginally high MCRs plant the tree several feet off the north wall of a house or on the north side of a large evergreen tree. In that location the tree will be shaded in winter and still receive sunlight (for best fruit quality) in summer. White-washing the stems will reduce the temperature during the day. Keeping the tree as short as possible also helps. (The air is noticeably warmer 10 feet off the ground on a still winter night.)

To be consistently successful in the benign winter climate of Orange County a deciduous fruit tree must have a relatively low MCR (a.k.a. *low chill*). Truthfully, the MCR’s of fruit tree varieties have not been scientifically determined and almost all are just educated guesses.

Some deciduous fruit trees (Figs, Jujubes, Mulberries,Persimmons, some Apples) may not have a MCR. We believe these trees are set to grow when spring days exceed a certain temperature and there are no leaves on the branches.

When we list the MCR as a range (for example MCR 300-500) we are listing the range of MCR’s listed for that variety from various references.

**Controlling Production**

Most mature full size fruit trees can produce more than 400 pieces of fruit at harvest time that typically lasts 2-4 weeks. Few families can consume fruit that quickly. There are several strategies to make production more useful.

1. **Control tree size with summer pruning.** Although most fruit trees can grow larger than 15 feet high and wide we prefer to keep each tree about 7-8 feet tall and 4-5 feet wide. Since fruit does not form on current growth (figs and jujubes are the exception) most of this growth can be trimmed off all summer without affecting next year’s crop. A tree this size will produce 50-70 fruit per year.
2. **Control size by grouping different varieties.** If 4 apple trees are planted within 2 feet of each other, this group is not capable of growing significantly larger than a single tree. This group will still produce a huge amount of fruit, but now has 4 different ripening periods. Much more of that fruit can now be consumed by one family.
3. **Do both**. In my own garden we planted 12 apple varieties in 3 groups. Each group is only allowed to grow 8 feet tall and wide. We can pick apples nearly any day between early summer and early winter.
4. **Make a hedge**. Fruit trees can also be planted 3-4 feet apart and maintained as a hedge.

Consult the brochure ***Backyard Orchard Culture****,* found on **Dave Wilson Nursery** website for details. An important detail is that summer is the best time to prune for size control. Heavy pruning in winter can eliminate most of the flower buds critical for the next crop.

Generally, we do not recommend genetic dwarf fruit trees. Of the few available varieties none produce superior quality fruit. Semidwarf trees are generally still too large unless pruned.

Apples are decently reliable in our area. Most of the popular commercial apples produce regularly in OC (*Honeycrisp* is an exception). Many apples seem to either have a very low MCR or have a back way to get around the system. Most apples bloom in April no matter what the winter was like. A few bloom in February. Most apples are at least partially self-fertile, but most orchards plant 2 varieties (with the same bloom period) just in case. To create a heavier bloom, strip off all the leaves grown the previous year by March. (Occasionally we’ll have a winter cool enough to cause all the foliage to drop.) Apples begin production by the 4th year, but most start much sooner. Apples require hand thinning after fruit set to 1 per cluster or less. We offer semidwarf trees (M111 rootstock) that can grow trees 15-20 feet tall, but can be maintained as low as 4 feet. Many varieties can be espaliered along a fence. Apples require ample water and grow well in lawns.

**Notable Pests:** The disease*Fireblight* is ocassionally a problem with all cultivars with Gala being most susceptible. Prevent by spraying prior to bloom time with **Agri-fos**. ***Coddling Moth*** larve (apple worms) can be prevented with proper thinning, choosing early or late ripening varieties, using pheromone lures, or by applying **Spinosad** (organic pesticide).

Anna Blooms February. Large, cylindrical, mostly red fruit with creamy, sweet, tender, crispy white flesh. Harvest July, but often produces significant fruit at other times. Best eaten fresh (poor shelf life). Quality ranges from good to excellent. Often grows fruit the first year. From Israel.

Braeburn Blooms April. Medium to large green fruit with burgundy stripes. The crisp flesh is slightly tart. Excellent fresh or cooked and stores well. Harvest September-October. From New Zealand.

Dorsett Golden Blooms February. Large, pink blushed, light yellow-green fruit is crisp, tender and slightly tart. Best fresh. Harvest June-July. Often has 2nd crop in fall. From the Bahamas.

Red Fuji Blooms April. Medium to large, slightly flattened fruit with yellowish green skin covered with grayish red stripes. Very crisp, very juicy flesh that is honey sweet. Thin heavily for best quality fruit. Best eaten fresh, but stores very well. Ripens in October. From Japan.

Gala Blooms April. Small to medium size fruit with yellow skin and scarlet stripes. The finely textured flesh is crisp, aromatic and spicy sweet. Best eaten fresh. Harvest August-September. Highly susceptible to fireblight. From New Zealand.

Granny Smith Blooms April. Medium to large round fruit with yellow-green skin. The flesh is firm, crisp, juicy and tart. Eaten fresh or cooked and stores very well. Harvest November-January. If the fruit left on the tree until mid-winter it becomes a fabulous sweet yellow apple. From Australia. Can get mildew near coast, but is essentially immune to fireblight and worms.

Jonagold Blooms April. Large rounded fruit with yellow skin and red stripes. The cream colored flesh is firm, crisp and juicy. Harvest September. Outstanding fresh or cooked. Pollinator is recommended.

Pink Lady Blooms April. Small to medium, cylindrical fruit with yellow green skin heavily blushed with rose. The white flesh is crisp, very sweet and highly flavored. Harvest October-December. From Australia.

Other Apples for OC:Beverly Hills has decent production and good flavor but ripens quickly. Ein Shemer is somewhat like *Dorsett Golden*, a sweet yellow apple. Golden Delicious performs decently. Gordon is a very large, round, sweet-tart, mostly green apple discovered in Whittier. Mollie’s Delicious is a large, Red Delicious type apple (red and yellow skin) than performs well locally. Mutsu is a huge yellow green apple with excellent flavor, but a bit too firm for eating without prior storage. Almost too vigorous. Pettingill is a large red/green fruit with decent flavor. Discovered nearl Long Beach. Pippinproduces a light crop of small apples with excellent flavor.Spitzenbergproduces of light crop of small fruit with outstanding flavor. Honeycrisp, unfortunately, will only produce decent fruit following an unusually cool winter.

Apricots are reliable producers in the flat areas of Orange County, in canyons and along creek beds where cold winter air settles. Apricot trees grow 20 feet tall, but can be maintained as low as 4 feet tall. Production begins the second or third year. All varieties we offer are self-fertile.

Goldkist MCR 300 Large all-purpose fruit with red blushed gold skin and very good quality firm, mildly flavored orange flesh. Ripens June. Tends to develop harmless crack lines on fruit exposed to sun. Super vigorous grower.

Royal (Blenheim) MCR 400-500 Medium to large fruit with yellow-orange skin and flesh. Very sweet and juicy. Ripens early summer. Old-time favorite, but not reliable in most areas.

Tropic Gold MCR 300 Medium to large fruit, yellow skin with orange blush. The orange flesh is firm with excellent flavor. Ripens early summer. It seems to have a slight lower MCR than Goldkist.

Other Apricots for OC:Katy has shown spotty performance. Early Newcastle has done well, but needs more testing. Autumn Royal has produced decent crops in late summer**. Flora Gold** with a MCR less than 400 also seems to perform well in low areas.

Apriums are relatively new hybrids between apricots and plums. Genetically they are 75% apricot and 25% plum. They resemble apricots but have a slightly more aromatic flavor.

Cot-N-Candy MCR 400. New. The medium size fruit resembles an apricot with white flesh. Sweet and juicy with superb flavor. Ripens early July. Self-fertile, but needs more testing to determine reliability.

Flavor Delight MCR 300. The small fruit resembles a typical apricot. Ripens late spring. Excellent quality. Self-fertile, but production is unpredictable.

Cherries generally are unreliable in OC. The two new varieties listed below are promising, but need further local testing. The MCR for most cherries is 700 hours.

Minie Royal MCR 200-300 Medium size red fruit has firm flesh with good flavor. Ripens early May. Requires pollination by *Royal Lee*.

Royal Lee MCR 250-350 Medium size red fruit has firm flesh with excellent flavor. Ripens mid May. Requires pollination by *Minnie Royal*.

Other Cherries we’ve tried***:*** Lapins MCR 400 has been performing relatively well. We think the MCR is actually 350. Stella MCR 600 is less reliable but has superior fruit quality*. Lapins* and *Stella* are self-fertile. Bing and Black Tartarian will rarely fruit.

Figs are reliable producers locally. All of the varieties we offer are self-fertile. The MCR is nonexistent. Fig trees can grow 20 feet tall but are easy to maintain at 8 feet with heavy annual pruning in winter. Many produce a few large fruit in June (Breba crop) with a second heavy crop of smaller fruit from Aug.-Oct. Production begins the first year.

Black Mission Medium size teardrop-shaped fruit with purple-black skin and strawberry flesh. Very rich flavor. Excellent fresh, good dried. Fruit won’t split open when ripe. OLD FAVORITE

Flanders Large, long teardrop-shaped fruit with green and bronze skin with sweet, unusually firm flesh. Extremely crack resistant. Excellent eaten fresh. Top variety from Fresno breeding program.

Gary’s Strawberry Large, bell-shaped fruit with green and bronze skin with sweet, brilliant red flesh. Extremely crack resistant. Excellent eaten fresh. Best volunteer from Gary’s backyard.

Italian Everbearing Large bell-shaped fruit with purple-brown skin and very juicy, sweet, light strawberry flesh. Best eaten fresh. Natural dwarf tree to about 8 feet tall. Excellent in containers. (may be identical to Brown Turkey and Black Jack)

Janice Seedless Kadota Large, greenish-yellow fruit with practically seedless light flesh. Very good eaten fresh. Long harvest season.

Panache (Tiger) Medium size fruit with cream and green striped skin and bright red flesh that tastes like strawberry jam. Fruit tends to split.

Peter’s Honey Medium size rounded fruit with yellow skin and honey-sweet amber flesh. Smallish tree good in containers.

Sierra Medium to large fruit with yellow-green skin and amber flesh. This NEW fig is of very good quality and can be eaten fresh or dried.

Violette de Bordeaux Similar to Black Mission except the tree grows very slowly and may not reach 8’.

White Genoa Medium size fruit with greenish yellow skin and amber to pink flesh. Good fresh. Best near coast.

Other Figs for OC:at least 50 other varieties perform well. The top-flavored Calimyrna-type figs require caprification (wasp pollinators) and are not practical for home orchards.

Jujubes (Chinese Date) are reliably productive throughout OC, but size, sweetness, and flavor need inland heat. The fruit ranges from jelly bean to chicken egg in size and shape with reddish-brown skin and crisp, apple-flavored, extremely sweet flesh. The fruit can be dried. The highly ornamental, weeping trees can grow 20 feet tall but can be pruned heavily in winter limiting height to under 8 feet. Juvenile growth is quite thorny. The thorns can be cut off for safety. Loves heat and inland conditions. Trees leaf out late and go dormant early. Trees are somewhat self-fertile. Young trees produce better when pollinated with a different variety. Production begins the first year. The fruit ripens in fall. This fruit is highly popular in southern Asia from China to the Middle East. The processed fruit was originally used to produce candy.

Contorted Medium size fruit similar to Li. The ornamental tree has twisted, contorted branching.

GA-866 medium size egg-shaped fruit with the sweetest flesh of any Jujube. The tree is relatively small. Selected in California.

Honey Jar Small to medium round fruit with mahogany-brown skin. Very sweet honey flavor. Ripens early. NEW.

Li Large egg-shaped fruit with mahogany-brown skin. Mature green fruit will ripen off the tree. Tree is somewhat short and spreading. From China.

Sherwood Very large fruit with notably dense flesh of excellent quality. Ripens late. Stores well. Small thorns. Selected in Louisiana.

Sugarcane New variety has round, slightly smaller fruit than Li.

Mulberries are reliable in all areas of OC. The fruit resembles blackberries and is very sweet when fully ripe. Excellent fresh, dried, cooked or for preserves. Ripens summer. Many varieties will produce additional crops if the foliage on some branches is stripped bare a few weeks following the main harvest. The fast growing trees are easy-to-grow. Established trees tolerate poor conditions including drought. Wildlife can make a mess with the black-fruited varieties.

Black Beauty (Persian) Large black fruit with sweet, flavorful flesh. Unripe fruit is quite tart. This semidwarf variety should stay under 15 feet, but can be trained as a bush under 5 feet. Persian mulberry trees leaf out in mid-spring.

Pakistan Red Very long, maroon fruit up to 4 inches in length with very sweet flesh. Fruit can be eaten well before fully ripe. The juice doesn’t stain. Ripens late spring-early summer. The tree can grow 20-30 feet. Heavy summer pruning will control size.

Pakistan White Essentially the same as Pakistan Red but the fruit is ripe when pale yellow.

Teas Weeping Small sweet black fruit of excellent quality. Heavy production. This small tree will weep to the ground. It is a novelty and popular in children’s gardens.

Nectarines include just a few varieties that perform reliably in OC. Fortunately 2 of the varieties are among the best eating of all Nectarines. Although nectarines are genetically identical to peaches, in addition to their smooth skin they have a different texture. All listed varieties are self-fertile. Standard trees grow 15 feet tall. All can be maintained as low as 4 feet tall. The fruit must be thinned within a month after the bloom to get better quality and decent size. **Notable Pests:** Nectarines should be sprayed every winter *fo r Peach Leaf Curl* disease with **copper** spray and may require *Thrips* and *Oriental Fruit Moth* worm control with **Spinosad**. These organic products are quite effective. Excess nitrogen fertilizer can cause the fruit to rot (*Brown Rot*) just as it ripens.

Arctic StarMCR 300. Fruit has dark red skin and white semi-freestone flesh. Super sweet mild flavor. Outstanding. Ripens mid June. Best away from coast.

Atomic Red White NectarineMCR 500 or less? The medium to large fruit has sweet white flesh. Ripens mid June. Best away from coast . Atomic Red has the best show of intense red, double flowers ever seen on a fruiting tree. We do not yet know the MCR for this cultivar.

Panamint MCR 250. Small to medium size fruit with red skin and golden flesh. Freestone. Good flavor. Ripens July.

Snow Queen MCR 325. White freestone flesh with excellent sweet, juicy flavor. Outstanding. Harvest late June.

Other Nectarines for OC: Desert Delight MCR 200 and Double Delight MCR 300 produce well, but suffer heavily from thrips damage (treatable). Goldmine MCR 400, is an excellent, white-fleshed variety that ripens in August but requires a cooler than normal winter.

Nectaplum is a new hybrid between nectarine and plum. The fruit is essentially a very good white nectarine and the leaves are plum colored. The flavor is both spicy and sweet.

Spice Zee MCR275 The large fruit has deep burgundy skin and the white flesh is sweet with excellent flavor. The large deep pink flowers put on a spectacular show. New leaves are red mature to burgundy and gradually turn green in summer. No pollinator needed. Culture is the same as for nectarines.

Peaches include a number of reliable producers of excellent quality. The majority of peaches that are promoted for our climate, in reference books, are bland in flavor due to the fact that most *low chill* peaches ripen in the late spring which is often overcast. These peaches are better suited for Florida or Arizona where it is hot in spring. Our best tasting peaches ripen in mid summer when warm sunny days are guaranteed.

Production begins 2nd or 3rd year. All listed varieties are self fertile. Standard trees grow 15 feet tall. All can be maintained as low as 4 feet tall. The fruit must be thinned within a month after the bloom to get better quality and decent size. **Notable Pests:** Peaches should be sprayed every winter *for Peach Leaf Curl* disease with **copper** spray and may require *Oriental Fruit Moth* worm control with **Spinosad**. These organic products are quite effective.

August Pride MCR 275 Large round fruit with yellow skin and yellow flesh. Good to excellent quality. Freestone, all-purpose fruit ripens mid to late July.

Bonita MCR 350. Huge, round fruit with red-blushed yellow skin and yellow flesh. Firm freestone with excellent flavor. Ripens late July. The flowers are homely.

Donut MCR 200-500. Unique flat, bagel-shaped, small to medium size fruit with sunken center. White flesh with mild sweet flavor with a hint of almond. Ripens early July.

Long Beach Peach MCR 200. Medium to large fruit with red skin and yellow flesh. The fine flavored, freestone flesh is firm, sweet and juicy. Ripens from late May to early June. NEW!

Red Baron MCR 300. Large fruit with yellow skin and flesh. The fruit has a small “beak”. Excellent quality freestone flesh. Ripens mid to late July. Spectacular spring show of carnation-like double rose-red flowers. OUR BEST PEACH!

Tropic Snow MCR 200. Large fruit with red-blushed pale skin and white flesh. The sweet freestone flesh is very good to excellent. Ripens mid-June.

Other peaches for OC:Eva’s Pride and Mid Pride usually perform well. Desertgold, Earligrand, Floridaprince and Ventura produce heavily with lower quality fruit.

Pearsinclude a few reliable producers of good quality. There are 3 types of pears. The most familiar are the European pears such as Bartlett, Bosc, d Anjou, and Comice. European pears rarely produce in OC. Asian pears include Hosui, Shinseiki and Twentieth Century. These tender, but crispy pears perform well in a few colder winter locations. Many Hybrid pears have performed well in OC but most are not very tasty. Pears make take 4 years to start production. Standard pear trees can reach 20 feet tall but can be maintained as low as 4 feet tall. Most pears should be harvested while still firm and ripened indoors. Pear trees tolerate heavy wet soils quite well.

**Notable Pests:** The disease*Fireblight* is ocassionally a problem. Prevent by spraying at bloom time with **Agri-fos**. *Coddling Moth* larve (apple worms) can be prevented with proper thinning or by applying **Spinosad** (organic pesticide).

Floridahome MCR 300. This hybrid has medium size fruit with greenish yellow skin and sweet, juicy, white flesh. Good to very good quality. Ripens mid-July. From Florida. Normally planted as a pollinator for Hood.

Hood MCR 100-200. This hybrid has large pear-shaped fruit with greenish-yellow skin and juicy, tender white flesh. Good to very good quality. Ripens late July. Hood is partially self-fertile and will produce fruit without a pollinator. With a pollinator the fruit is smaller, more evenly shaped, and more numerous.

Other pears for OC:Comice is supposed to do well but I’ve only seen 1 crop in 25 years.Fan-Stil, Kieffer, Monterrey, Moonglow, and Orient, all hybrids, have produced decentlyl with fair quality fruit. Kieffer may be the best of these. Of the Asian pears Twentieth Century seems to be the closest to being reliable and is self-fertile.

Persimmons are reliable producers throughout OC. The main concern is that they all require soil with a high oxygen content (superb drainage). Most varieties are self-fertile. Persimmon trees can grow 30 feet tall but can be maintained as low as 4 feet tall. Production begins within 4 years.

Many persimmons are astringent until fully (jelly) ripe. This is a very unpleasant sensation. Your mouth feels like it’s full of powdered sugar. The Fuyu-types are non-astringent and can be eaten while still hard.

There are 2 methods to alleviate the astringency besides just waiting. One method is to place the ripe fruit in a freezer for one day. When you thaw the flesh it is edible. The other method is to place the ripe fruit in an airtight container (zip-lock bag is fine) after pouring a few drops of an alcoholic beverage (*sake* is traditional) on the stem end. The fruit is edible after being enclosed a day or two.

Chocolate Small to medium size oblong orange-red fruit. When pollinated the orange flesh becomes seedy and brown. The soft flesh has a chocolate-cinnamon flavor and is astringent until ripe.

Coffeecake (Nishimura Wase) Medium size, slightly flattened, round fruit with orange skin and orange flesh flecked with brown. The flesh is non-astringent if the flowers are pollinated. (*Chocolate* is a good pollinator.) Unpollinated fruit is astringent until ripe and less flavorful. Ripens early fall.

Giant Fuyu The very large deep orange fruit has a flattened top and a rounded bottom. The flesh is non-astringent and quite good. Trees take years to become productive.

Hachiya Very large, oblong-conical fruit with orange red skin and flesh. It is astringent until jelly ripe. The excellent flavor is rich and sweet. Ripens mid to late fall. Eaten fresh, dried or for baking. This is the persimmon sold at most supermarkets.

Imoto Fuyu Large flattened, slightly quartered, fruit with dark orange skin and flesh. The non-astringent seedless flesh is sweet and mellow with a slight cinnamon flavor. Can be eaten while crispy or allowed to ripen until soft. Harvest early to mid fall. This variant of Fuyu appears to be quite precocious, but less vigorous and perhaps shorter-lived than *Jiro* Fuyu.

Izu Fuyu Medium to large flattened round fruit with orange skin and flesh. The non-astringent flesh is sweet and mellow. Ripens late summer, much earlier than other Fuyus.

Jiro Fuyu Identical to Imoto in appearance and flavor. The flesh is a bit crispier and the tree is more vigorous, but seems to take a few more years to start production. This is the most common commercially sold Fuyu.

Plums tend to be unpredictable producers and only a few varieties are reasonably reliable in OC. Production begins within 4 years. Standard plum trees can reach 30 feet tall but can be maintained as low as 4 feet tall. There are no genetic dwarf varieties that perform well locally.

Beauty MCR 250. Small to medium size fruit with red and greenish yellow skin. The red flesh is sweet and flavorful. The fruit ripens quickly and becomes a little water balloon. Harvest May-June. Self-fertile.

Burgundy MCR 300. Medium to large fruit with dark burgundy skin and firm dark red flesh. Sweet and mellow with a small pit. It has an extended harvest in July. Self-fertile and the best pollinator for other plums and pluots.

Santa Rosa MCR 375. Medium to large fruit with purplish skin and amber flesh tinted red. Juicy and sweet with a tart skin. Ripens June. Self-fertile. MOST POPULAR, BUT NOT RELIABLY PRODUCTIVE IN MOST LOCATIONS.

Satsuma MCR 275. Small to medium round fruit with maroon blushed greenish skin and deep red flesh. The sweet flesh has a mild flavor. Harvest July. Supposedly requires a pollinator, but seems to be self-fertile. This is the original “blood” plum and is quite reliable.

Weeping Santa Rosa MCR 300. Large oval fruit with purple skin and yellow flesh. Superb flavor. The weeping tree only grows 8-10 feet tall. So far, this sport of Santa Rosa seems to have a lower MCR.

Other plums for OC***:*** Methley is similar to Beauty with red fruit. Elephant Heart, Golden Nectar, Howard Miracle and Mariposa are all wonderful plums with MCR 400+ that produce well about once in 5 years.

Pluots are relatively new hybrids that are winning most fruit tasting tests. Pluots genetically are 75% plum and 25% apricot. They taste like plums but are sweeter and have firmer flesh with a shelf life that approaches 1 month! Pluots require pollination by another pluot variety or plum. *Burgundy* plum and *Flavor Grenade* pluot are the most reliable pollinators. (*Flavor Grenade* may not pollinate *Flavor King*. *Flavor King* is best pollinated by *Dapple Dandy* or *Burgundy* plum.) (*Flavor Grenade* can be pollinated by *Dapple Dandy, Emerald Drop* or *Flavor King*.)

Emerald Drop MCR 400. Medium to large greenish yellow fruit with orange flesh. The firm and juicy flesh is honey sweet with outstanding flavor. Harvest mid-July through August*. Flavor Grenade* should pollinate. NEW!

Flavor Grenade MCR 300. Elongated greenish yellow fruit with red stripes and blush. The flesh is crisp with incredibly powerful flavor. Excellent hang time on tree.

Flavor King MCR 350. Large fruit with maroon skin and deep red flesh. Outstanding flavor. Harvest August.

Splash MCR 350. Small, round red-orange fruit with orange flesh. Very sweet fresh or dried with outstanding cherry flavor. Harvest early to late July. *Flavor Grenade* should pollinate. NEW!

Other pluots:Dapple Dandy, Geo Pride and Flavorosa are fair producers. Flavor Queen rarely produces. *Dapple Dandy* and *Flavor Queen* both have superb flavor.

Pomegranates are easy to grow in OC. Flavor and sweetness are best in warmer inland areas. All are self-fertile. Heavy production begins the 4th year. Ripens fall. Pomegranate trees can grow 15 feet tall but can be maintained as low as 4 feet tall. Pomegranate trees are highly ornamental and the attractive orange red flowers bloom for several months. Water consistently or fruit will split before ripening. Beware of the sharp spines that form at branch tips. Be forewarned: We have seen young trees producing fruit that did not resemble fruit of mature trees.

Ambrosia Huge round fruit with rosy golden skin and bright carmine flesh. Hard seed. Very good sweet-tart flavor. Excellent quality even near the coast.

Angel Red Large, round bright red fruit resembling Wonderful but with soft seeds and ripens 1 month earlier.

Desertnyi Large, round, light orange fruit with firm, dark red flesh. Soft seeds. Excellent sweet-tart balance with orange-like, citrus flavor.

Eversweet Medium size fruit with pale pink skin and pale red, non-staining flesh. Very sweet and mellow. Soft seeds. Ripens mid September. Semi dwarf tree to 8-10 feet tall. Good near coast.

Parfianka Large, round, red fruit with firm red flesh. Small, soft seeds. Sweet with a hint of acidity. Outstanding flavor. Vigorous upright plant produces heavy crops.

Sweet Large fruit with pinkish green skin and light red flesh. Sweet and mellow flavor with soft seeds. Ripens early fall.

Wonderful Large round fruit with red skin and ruby flesh. Excellent sweet-tart flavor. Ripens late fall. THE COMMERCIAL POMEGRANATE.

Quinces do well in OC. The large pear-shaped fruit has fuzzy skin and extremely firm flesh. It is usually cooked and made into pies, jams and jellies. Production begins by the 2nd or 3rd year. Quince trees can grow 15 feet tall but can be maintained as low as 4 feet tall. Quince trees tolerate poor conditions*. Fireblight* is a preventable disease that can cause major damage to the tree.

Smyrna Very large fruit with yellow skin and tender light yellow flesh. Ripens fall. Good to very good quality. From Turkey.