

Deciduous 9-2020 Fruit Trees

for Orange County
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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 **minimum 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 that 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. They rarely produce fruit locally.

In Orange County the lowest chill is found on coastal hilltops (about 200 hours). Most of the flat neighborhoods of central OC get about 300 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 300+ 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 above 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, Pomegranates) apparently do 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. (Chemicals produced by leaves have an inhibiting effect on growth buds)

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 5-6 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 60-80 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. Most of the fruit trees that we sell are full size and it is up to you to train them and maintain them at a manageable size.

Apples are surprisingly 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-June no matter what the winter was like. A few bloom in February. Most apples are partially self-fertile; most orchards plant 2 varieties (with a similar bloom period) to produce the best crop. 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 consistently wet soil and grow well in lawns. **Notable Pests:** The disease *Fireblight* is occasionally a problem with all cultivars with Gala being most susceptible. Prevent by spraying prior to bloom time with **Garden-phos**. *Codling Moth* larvae (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.

Arkansas Black Spur Blooms April. Large, round deep red fruit with firm, crispy white flesh. Sweet balanced flavor good fresh and cooked. Harvest October-November.

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. Best quality inland.

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 quality fruit near coast. 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. Best quality near coast.

Pink Lady Blooms April. Medium size (large on older trees), cylindrical fruit with yellow green skin heavily blushed with rose. The firm white flesh is crisp, very sweet and highly flavored. Harvest October-December. From Australia (Cripp's Pink)

Pink Pearl Blooms April. Medium size rounded fruit with pink blushed, creamy light green skin. The slightly tart,

highly aromatic flesh is pink! Harvest early fall. Blooms early with pink flowers!

Sundowner Blooms April. Medium to large rounded apple, mostly striped red. The white flesh is crisp, very sweet. Harvest October-December. This is arguably the best apple we can grow. It is Pink Lady's sister from Australia (Cripp's Red)

Winesap (Stayman Double Red Winesap) Blooms April. Medium to large round fruit with light red skin. Creamy yellow flesh is highly aromatic with a spicy sweet flavor.

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. **Pettingill** is a large red/green fruit with decent flavor discovered near Long Beach. **Pippin** produces a light crop of small apples with excellent flavor. **Spitzenberg** produces of light crop of small fruit with outstanding flavor. **Honeycrisp**, unfortunately, will only produce golf ball size fruit locally.

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.

Flora Gold MCR 350 Very good quality fruit. Ripens June.

Goldkist MCR 350 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.

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. This is a sport of Royal.

Other Apricots for OC: **Katy** has shown spotty performance. **Early Newcastle** has done OK, but needs more testing. **Autumn Royal** has produced decent crops in late summer but suffers from heat and worms. **Royal/Blenheim** has only been reliable in canyons and along river beds.

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

Cot-N-Candy MCR 350. New. The medium size fruit resembles an apricot with cream skin and white flesh. Sweet and juicy with superb flavor. Ripens early July. Self-fertile, but needs more testing to determine reliability.

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

Leah-Cot MCR 300 or less. Large fruit with deep orange skin and flesh. The excellent quality flesh is firm and flavorful. Harvest late June.

Cherries generally are a "work in progress" in OC. The new varieties listed below are promising, but need further local testing. The MCR for most cherries is 700+ hours. Trees start production in 3-7 years.

Brooks MCR 400 or less NEW! Large firm red fruit with excellent flavor. Pollination is recommended. This new low-chill cherry is from University of California.

Lapins MCR 300 or more Large firm dark red fruit with very good flavor. Self-fertile but probably better crop when pollinated. From Canada

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

Royal Crimson MCR 200-300 Large crimson fruit. Harvest mid-May. Self-fertile and an excellent pollinator for Minnie Royal and Royal Lee. From California

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

Other Cherries we've tried: **Stella** MCR 600 is less reliable but has superior fruit quality and is self-fertile. **Bing** and **Black Tartarian** will rarely fruit.

Jujubes (Chinese Date) are reliably productive throughout OC, but size, sweetness, and flavor need reliable 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. Trees leaf out late and go dormant early. Trees are partially 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.

Chico Medium size, squat, apple-shaped fruit with very sweet flesh. From California. (originally GI 7-62)

GA-866 Medium to large elongated fruit with the sweetest flesh (tested) 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.

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.

Shanixi Li Very large 2+” round fruit. NEW. Sweet apple flavor. This is the largest fruit of the jujubes. From China.

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. Frequent regular pruning will control size to 8'.

Teas Weeping Small sweet black fruit of excellent quality. Heavy production. This small 6-10' 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 for *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 Star MCR 300. Fruit has dark red skin and white semi-freestone flesh. Super sweet mild flavor. Outstanding. Ripens mid June. Best away from coast.

Desert Delight MCR 200 Large fruit with bright red skin and yellow flesh. Rich, delicious flavor. Ripens mid June. This may be our only totally reliable (won't miss a year) nectarine.

Double Delight MCR 300 Large fruit with dark red skin and yellow flesh. Very rich flavor...our best quality nectarine. Ripens mid July.

Snow Queen MCR 300 White freestone flesh with excellent sweet, juicy flavor. Outstanding. Harvest late June.

Other Nectarines for OC: **Goldmine** MCR 400, is an excellent, white-fleshed variety that ripens in August but requires a cooler than normal winter. **Panamint** MCR 300 is a decent quality medium size red blushed yellow fruit with yellow flesh.

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. Production begins the second year.

Spice Zee MCR275 The large fruit has deep burgundy skin and the white flesh is sweet with excellent flavor. The large deep mauve 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. OUR BEST "NECTARINE"

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 summer when warm sunny days are guaranteed.

Production begins 2nd 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 very juicy, yellow flesh. Excellent quality. Freestone, all-purpose fruit ripens mid to late July. This is our best peach.

Donut MCR 300-400. 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.

Eva's Pride MCR 200 or less Medium size yellow, freestone fruit. Best quality of the "early" peaches. Ripens late spring.

Mid-Pride MCR 250. Medium to large fruit with yellow flesh. Excellent flavor. Ripens early summer. Best quality away from coast.

Peachy Keen MCR 270. Medium to large fruit with mostly red skin and yellow flesh. Very good quality. Ripens early July. Very heavy production.

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.

Sauzee Swirl MCR 150. Medium size "donut" style fruit with red blushed cream skin and white flesh swirled red. Very good if we have sufficient sun. Ripens May.

Tropic Snow MCR 150. Medium 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: Desertgold, Earligrand, Floridaprince produce heavily in mid spring with lower quality fruit.

Pears include 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 occasionally a problem. Prevent by spraying at bloom time with **Garden-phos**. *Codling Moth* larve (apple worms) can be prevented with proper thinning or by applying **Spinosad** (organic pesticide).

20th Century MCR 350. Asian. Medium size, tomato-shaped, creamy yellow fruit with very crispy, tender, extremely juicy white flesh with a mild, sweet flavor. Self-fertile.

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.

Hosui MCR 300-400. Asian. Large to very large round fruit with orange-brown russeted skin. The crisp, but very tender, white flesh is very juicy, sweet and tangy. TOP RATED ASIAN PEAR. Ripens late August. Pollinate with 20th Century.

Keiffer MCR 250. Hybrid. Medium size golden fruit with classic pear shape. Good flavor with coarse texture. Ripens early fall. Our most reliable pear.

Southern King MCR 300. Hybrid. May or may not be the same as Tennesseui. Some literature states it is a sibling of Tennessee pear and is pear-shaped with a red-blushed green skin and some say it is a sibling of Tennesseui. Oh well, we'll have to try both.

Tennesseui MCR 150-450. Hybrid. Apparently a chance cross between Tennessee and Hosui. The oblong fruit ripens to a golden russet skin with creamy white melting flesh with some coarseness of Asian pears and outstanding flavor. Cut fruit is slow to oxidize. Self-fertile. We hope this proves to be good locally.

Other pears for OC: Comice is supposed to do well but I've only seen 1 crop in 25 years. **Fan-Stil, Monterrey, Moonglow, and Orient**, all hybrids, have produced decently with fair quality fruit.

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 dry flour even though the flesh is juicy. 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 (sometimes large) oblong orange-red fruit. The orange flesh becomes brown and spicy when ripe. The soft flesh has a chocolate-cinnamon flavor. Ripens late fall.

Coffeecake (Nishimura Wase) Medium to large, 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 the best pollinator.) Unpollinated fruit is astringent until ripe and less flavorful. Ripens early fall.

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. Properly dried fruit is heavenly.

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 is a sport mutation of Jiro and ripens several weeks earlier, has a more "quartered" appearance and may be a bit more precocious.

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 Large flattened, round fruit with dark orange skin and flesh. The non-astringent seedless flesh is sweet and mellow with a slight cinnamon flavor. Can be eaten crispy or allowed to ripen until soft. Harvest mid-fall. This is the commercial "Fuyu".

The original Fuyu persimmon is no longer offered. The fruit is a bit more rounded and a bit smaller and has a few partially to fully developed seeds. The flavor is sweet but we consider the newer cultivars to be better.

Saijo Small to medium egg-shaped yellow orange fruit. The orange flesh is astringent until ripe. When ripe it is the sweetest of all persimmons. Ripens in November.

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. Harvest May-June. Self-fertile.

Burgundy MCR 325. 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.

Inca MCR 250. Medium size fruit with red blushed golden skin and flesh. Sweet and mellow with a small pit. It has an extended harvest in August. Self-fertile and may be a great pollinator for other plums, pluots and pluerries.

Santa Rosa MCR 350. 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 LOCAL GARDENS.

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 every decade.

Pluerrys are relatively new hybrids of plum and cherry; generally smaller than plums and larger than cherry with firm flesh, great hang time, and a spicy flavor in between. Pollination is required. Can be pollinated by a different pluerry, plum or pluot...but often blooms before plums or pluots.

Candy Heart MCR 200. Small to medium size burgundy red, heart-shaped fruit with amber red flesh. It has an outstanding cherry-plum flavor. Ripens mid-summer and hangs well. Best pollinated by Sweet Treat pluerry.

Flavor Punch MCR ? Small to medium round fruit round fruit with orange skin heavily blushed with red. The firm orange flesh has a sweet tropical punch flavor. Ripens late summer-early fall. WE HAVE YET TO DETERMINE THE CHILL REQUIREMENT.

Sweet Treat Pluerry MCR 200. Small to medium, round fruit with golden yellow skin heavily blushed with red. The firm golden flesh is very spicy sweet...difficult to describe, but wonderful. Ripens late July but hangs well.

Pluots are relatively new hybrids that are winning most fruit tasting tests. Pluots genetically are about 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*.)

Dapple Supreme MCR 250. Large fruit with dappled red skin and red flesh. Outstanding flavor. Harvest early summer. Best performing pluot in local gardens.

Emerald Drop MCR 350. 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. This pluot is essentially a “perfect” plum.

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.

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.

Ariana Large, round, bright red fruit with firm dark red flesh. Small, soft edible seeds. Sweet with a punchy flavor. Wins many taste tests. From Dr. Greg Levin’s collection in Turkmenistan.

Austin Very large, round fruit with red blushed, pink skin. Hard seeds. Dark red flesh. Excellent sweet flavor with just a hint of tartness. Very high juice content. Ripens early fall. This is considered the best pomegranate for juicing. From Syrian immigrant that moved to Austin, Texas.

Desertnyi Large, round, light orange fruit with firm, dark red flesh. Very soft, edible seeds. Excellent sweet-tart balance with orange-like, citrus flavor. From Dr. Greg Levin’s collection in Turkmenistan.

Erin Large, round, light pink to deep rose fruit with light red flesh. Soft, edible seeds. Good sweet flavor. This tropical cultivar blooms and fruits year round! A truly ornamental edible that usually produces fruit within one year! WE ARE THE EXCLUSIVE GROWER OF ERIN. From Singapore.

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

Gissarskii Rozovyi Large, round fruit with red blushed salmon pink skin and pink to light red flesh. Very soft, edible seeds. Excellent sweet flavor with a unique finishing astringency (like lemonade). Ripens early to mid fall. Scores very high at taste tests. From Dr. Greg Levin’s collection in Turkmenistan.

Parfianka Large, round, red fruit with firm red flesh. Very small, soft edible seeds. Sweet with a hint of acidity. Outstanding flavor. Most often rates #1 at taste tests. Vigorous upright plant produces heavy crops. From Dr. Greg Levin’s collection in Turkmenistan.

Pink Satin (Sin Pepe) Medium size, round, pink to red fruit with firm light pink flesh. Soft edible seeds. Sweet,

fruit punch flavor. Vigorous upright plant produces heavy crops. From Chico, Ca.

Sirenevya Large, round fruit with tan to pink skin, speckled pink and deep red flesh. Very soft, edible seeds. Spicy flavor. Harvest in November. From Turkmenistan. Highest rated of the "late" pomegranates.

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