

# FAVORITE FRUIT TREES FOR SAN DIEGO

By Tom Del Hotal

## DECIDUOUS FRUIT

Deciduous fruit trees often require a winter dormancy period where temperatures fall between 32 and 45 degrees F. in order to grow, flower and fruit properly. Varieties differ in the number of hours they require at these temperatures to overcome dormancy. The fruit trees listed under **Column A** have the lowest chilling requirements ( 0 - 300 hours) and should perform well in most areas of San Diego. The fruit trees listed under **Column B** have higher chilling requirements ( 300 - 500 hours ) and may not perform well in areas of very low chill ( less than 250-300 hours).

Column A		Column B		COMMENTS
<b>APPLES</b>				
Anna Dorsett Golden Winter Banana	Beverly Hills Pettingill Winter Pearmain	Fuji Granny Smith Pink Lady	Gordon Mutsu	Prune to central leader or modified central leader shape. Dormant spray to control dormant diseases & overwintering insects. Some varieties require pollinizers.
<b>APRICOTS</b>				
Floragold	Gold Kist	Autumn Royal Royal (Bleinheim)	Katy	Prune to open vase or modified open vase shape. Fruit is produced on short lived fruiting spurs. Dormant spray to control dormant diseases & overwintering insects. <b>Do not dormant spray with lime-sulfur (calcium polysulfide) dormant sprays.</b>
<b>CHERRIES</b>				
		Minnie Royal Royal Lee		Two new sweet cherries that reportedly have lower chill requirements than most sweet cherries, reportedly 250-400 chill hours. Need both for cross pollination. Prune to open vase or modified open vase shape. Excellent fruit.
<b>FIGS</b>				
Black Madeira Brown Turkey Conadria Everbearing King (Desert King) Panache*	Black Mission Celeste Italian Osborne Prolific White Genoa			Roots are very invasive. Prune to control size.  *Not good for cool costal areas. Needs long, hot summer temperatures to ripen.
<b>JUJUBE</b>				
Lang	Li			Extremely hardy. No pests or diseases. Drought tolerant.
<b>NECTARINES</b>				
Arctic Star Gulf Pride Snow Queen	Desert Delight Panamint	Arctic Glo		Prune to open vase or modified open vase shape. Fruit borne on last years wood. Dormant spray to control dormant diseases & overwintering insects.
<b>PEACHES</b>				
August Pride Desert Gold Flordaprince Mid Pride Scarlet Robe Tropic Snow	Bonita Earligrande May Pride Red Baron Springtime Ventura	Babcock	Earliltreat	Prune to open vase or modified open vase shape. Fruit borne on last years wood. Dormant spray to control dormant diseases & overwintering insects.

Column A	Column B	COMMENTS
<b>MULBERRIES</b>		
<u><b>Morus nigra</b></u> Kaester Persian <u><b>Morus alba &amp; Hybrids</b></u> Illinois Everbearing Pakistani Phil's White Sullivan		Roots are very invasive. Prune to control size. Morus nigra are smaller trees and produce fruit which have a more balanced sugar-to-acid flavor.
<b>PEARS</b>		
<u><b>EUROPEAN</b></u> Flordahome Hood <u><b>HYBRID</b></u> Fan Stil Kieffer Monterrey Orient	<u><b>ASIAN</b></u> 20th Century Shinseiki Tsu Li Ya Li <u><b>EUROPEAN</b></u> Comice	Prune to central leader or modified central leader shape. Many varieties require pollinizers. All except Hybrid Pear varieties are highly susceptible to fireblight.
<b>PERSIMMON</b>		
Fuyu * Hachiya	Giant Fuyu*	*These varieties are non-astringent and can be eaten firm or soft. Wood is very brittle, prune for structural strength.
<b>PLUMS</b>		
Beauty Burgundy European Green Gage Hollywood Late Santa Rosa Methley Santa Rosa Weeping Santa Rosa	Elephant Heart Kelsy Mariposa Satsuma Shiro	Prune to open vase or modified open vase shape. Fruit borne on long lived fruiting spurs. Dormant spray to control dormant diseases & overwintering insects. Some varieties require pollinizers.
<b>INTERSPECIFIC PLUM HYBRIDS</b>		
<u><b>PLUMCOTS &amp; PLUOTS</b></u> Flavorella Plum Parfait  <u><b>APRIUMS</b></u> Cot-N-Candy Flavor Delight	<u><b>CHERRY PLUMS</b></u> Delight Sprite <u><b>PLUOTS</b></u> Dapple Dandy Emerald Drop Flavor Grenade Flavor King Flavor Queen Flavor Rich	Prune to open vase or modified open vase shape. Fruit borne on fruiting spurs. Dormant spray to control dormant diseases & overwintering insects. <b>Do not dormant spray with lime-sulfur (calcium polysulfide) dormant sprays.</b> Most varieties require pollinizers.
<b>POMEGRANATE</b>		
Eversweet Angel Red	Utah Sweet Wonderful	Extremely hardy. Drought tolerant. Fruit can be tart or sweet. Seeds can be hard or semi-hard.

## CITRUS

Citrus trees may require hot summer temperatures to produce fruit of optimum size and sweetness. Some varieties may not receive long enough periods of hot temperatures (heat units) in more moderate climates of San Diego to produce fruit of acceptable quality. Most citrus varieties are available either as standard trees, which reach a mature height of 18 to 25 or 30 feet, or as dwarf trees, which reach a mature height of 8 to 15 feet.

<b>CITRON</b>		
Etrog	Fingered	Fruit is used mainly for it's peel.
<b>GRAPEFRUIT, PUMMELO, GRAPEFRUIT &amp; PUMMELO HYBRIDS</b>		
Rio Red	Star Ruby	These varieties perform best where summers are long and hot. The varieties which I have listed perform better than average in most of San Diego's climates and produce very acceptable fruit.
Chandler (Sarawack)	Tahitian	
<b>GRAPEFRUIT &amp; PUMMELO HYBRIDS</b>		
Cocktail Grapefruit	Oro Blanco	
<b>KUMQUATS &amp; KUMQUAT HYBRIDS</b>		
Meiwa	Nagami	These fruit are eaten whole, skin and all. The rind is often sweeter than the flesh of the fruit.
Eustis Limequat		
<b>LEMONS</b>		
Eureka	Improved	The Improved Meyer is a mandarin-lemon hybrid and has a slightly sweeter flavor than other lemons. Pink Lemonade has pinkish flesh. Pink Lemonade & Sungold have variegated foliage & immature fruit.
Meyer		
Pink Lemonade	Sungold	
<b>LIMES</b>		
Bearss	Rangpur	Limes are ripe when they turn yellow and are much juicier with a better flavor than green (unripe) limes. Rangpur is a sour mandarin, orange in color with a lime-like flavor.
Thornless Mexican		
<b>MANDARINS ( TANGERINES )</b>		
Algerian ( Clementine )	Encore	Mandarins vary in ripening season, size, color, seediness, ease of peeling, ability to hold well on the tree without losing fruit quality, and flavor. Flavor depends on the sugar-to- acid ratios of the fruit and ranges from very sweet, to sweet and tangy, to tangy.
Gold Nugget	Honey	
Kara	Kinnow	
Page	Pixie	
Satsuma	Shasta Gold	
Summertime	Tahoe Gold	
Yosemite Gold		
<b>ORANGES - BITTER</b>		
Bouquet de Fleur	Seville	These are used primarily for marmalades, jams and jellies.
<b>ORANGES - BURGUNDY ( BLOOD )</b>		

Blood Valencia Sanguinelli	Moro	The flesh of these oranges has distinct red color. Coloration varies somewhat, depending on climate and year. Fruit have a higher acid ratio than other sweet oranges, which gives them their tangy “raspberry” flavor.
<b>ORANGES - SWEET</b>		
Cara Cara Midnight Valencia Shamouti Valencia Washington Navel	Lane Late Seedless Variegated Valencia	Oranges vary in ripening season, size, color, seediness, ease of peeling, ability to hold well on the tree without losing fruit quality, and flavor. Flavor depends on the sugar-to- acid ratio of the fruit and ranges from very sweet, to sweet and tangy, to tangy. The Cara Cara is unique in color with its pink flesh. The Variegated Valencia has variegated foliage & immature fruit.
<b>TANGORS &amp; TANGELOS</b>		
Ortanique Allspice	<u><b>TANGORS</b></u> <u><b>TANGELOS</b></u> Minneola	Tangors are sweeter than their tangelo relatives. Tangelos develop more sugars in hotter areas and may not produce their best fruit in cooler areas of San Diego.
<b>ACIDLESS CITRUS</b>		
Sweet Lemon Vainiglia Sanguigno	Sweet Lime	These citrus are pure sweet and have no acid flavor to counterbalance the sugar. Some people consider the flavor insipid. The juice is very refreshing and thirst quenching. Vainiglia Sanguigno is a new variety which is said to have pink flesh.
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Rio Red Chandler (Sarawack) Cocktail Grapefruit	<u><b>GRAPEFRUIT</b></u> Star Ruby <u><b>PUMMELO</b></u> Tahitian <u><b>GRAPEFRUIT &amp; PUMMELO</b></u> <u><b>HYBRIDS</b></u> Oro Blanco	These varieties perform best where summers are long and hot. The varieties which I have listed perform better than average in most of San Diego’s climates and produce very acceptable fruit.
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Meiwa Eustis Limequat	Nagami	These fruit are eaten whole, skin and all. The rind is often sweeter than the flesh of the fruit.
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Eureka Meyer Pink Lemonade	Improved Sungold	The Improved Meyer is a mandarin-lemon hybrid and has a slightly sweeter flavor than other lemons. Pink Lemonade has pinkish flesh. Pink Lemonade & Sungold have variegated foliage & immature fruit.
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## **SUBTROPICAL FRUIT**

Many subtropical fruit varieties can be grown successfully in San Diego. Fruit varieties that fall under the category of subtropical fruit can survive temperatures at or below 32 degrees F. for varying lengths of time, depending on many factors including: type of fruit, fruit variety, age of the plant, length of time plant has been established, air drainage, minimum temperature, duration of cold, and many other factors. Most subtropical fruit are capable of surviving temperatures wherever Hass avocados can be grown, and many can survive temperatures below that where Hass avocados will survive. Most subtropical fruit trees enjoy warm temperatures and many perform better in areas that are warmer than the cool coastal zone. There is a large variety of subtropical fruit that can be grown in San Diego. Many varieties can be grown throughout the county, but not all types or varieties of fruit can be grown successfully in all areas of San Diego. Organizations such as the California Rare Fruit Growers grow new and untried varieties of fruit trees in San Diego that add to our knowledge of growing fruit in San Diego. The list of subtropical fruit trees that follows describes some of the more commonly grown subtropical fruit trees in San Diego.

AVOCADOS	
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<p><b><u>DWARF</u></b> Gwen (A)                      Holiday (B) Whitsell (B)</p> <p><b><u>STANDARD</u></b> Fuerte (B)                      Hass (A) Nabal (B)                      Pinkerton (A) Reed (A)</p>	<p>All require soil with excellent drainage. Very shallow feeder root systems enjoy regular mulching and irrigation. Most varieties are at least partially self-fruitful, but best fruit production is achieved by having two trees ( one A type and one B type ) for pollination. Many more varieties of avocado are available.</p>
<b>BANANAS</b>	
<p><b><u>DWARF</u></b> Dwarf Cavendish    Enano Gigante Dwarf Brazilian    Dwarf Jamaican Red Raja Puri                      Williams</p> <p><b><u>STANDARD</u></b> Apple                      Ice Cream Lady Finger                      Namwha</p>	<p>Fertilize and water heavily during the warm growing season. Limit the number of pseudostems to 6-8 per clump for best fruit production. Each pseudostem produces only one bunch of bananas during its life. Cut out old pseudostems after fruit is harvested. Over 100 varieties to choose from, most have produced fruit in San Diego.</p>
<b>CARAMBOLA ( STAR FRUIT )</b>	
<p>Arkin                      Fwang Tung Golden Star</p>	<p>Beautiful yellow fruit forms star-shaped slices when cut in cross-section. Trees prefer some shade if grown in hot inland areas.</p>
<b>CHERIMOYA</b>	
<p>Bays                      Bay Ott Chaffey                      Libby Honeyhart                      Orton</p>	<p>Most varieties are partially self-fruitful depending on maturity of the tree, location and micro-climate where the tree is grown, climate that year, and other factors. Hand pollination of the flowers is often recommended, in order to assure reliable fruit production.</p>
<b>EUGENIA SPECIES</b>	
<p><b><u>CHERRY OF THE RIO GRANDE</u></b></p> <p><b><u>GRUMICHAMA</u></b></p> <p><b><u>SURINAM CHERRY</u></b> Crazy Mutant                      Lolita Westree #369</p>	<p>These versatile evergreen shrubs or small trees often have new growth which is copper or red in color. Easily pruned to shape, fruit is generally produced in late spring or summer. Fruit averages around 1 inch in diameter and is generally very dark red to black in color. (Surinam cherry fruit may also be orange-red.) Fruit is very delicate with a single seed.</p>
<b>FEIJOA ( PINEAPPLE GUAVA )</b>	
<p>Beechwood                      Lickver's Pride Mammoth                      Nazemetz</p>	<p>Tough, versatile tree with no common pests or diseases. Drought tolerant. Beautiful flowers with edible petals. Egg sized fruit has juicy flesh reminiscent in flavor of pineapple and pear.</p>
<b>GUAVA</b>	

<b><u>STRAWBERRY GUAVA</u></b>		<p>Strawberry guava trees are the hardiest and most adaptable of the guavas, however they have the smallest fruit.</p> <p>Vietnamese-type tropical guavas have large, crunchy fruit with white flesh and no obvious fragrance.</p> <p>Dessert-type tropical guavas are very fragrant, have a soft, melting flesh which varies in flavor and may have flesh colors of white, yellow, pink or red.</p> <p>Thai Maroon varieties of dessert-type tropical guavas are quite unique. The foliage has red pigments which darken in color during the winter months. The flowers are lovely pink. The immature fruit has a bronze-red skin color which turns lighter red when the fruit is mature. The flesh color of the fruit is red.</p>
Red	Yellow	
<b><u>TROPICAL - VIETNAMESE</u></b>		
Bangkok Apple	Gridley	
<b><u>TROPICAL - DESSERT</u></b>		
Indian White	Mardi Red	
Ruby	Uma	
<b><u>TROPICAL - DESSERT THAI MAROON</u></b>		
Mardi Red	Big Red	
<b>LITCHI</b>		
Brewster	Emperor	Trees are very slow growing and are sensitive to wind, salt, and cold. Trees dislike high phosphorous fertilizers. Fruit production may be irregular.
Hak Ip		
<b>LOQUAT</b>		
Big Jim	Champagne	Tough adaptable trees are very drought tolerant. Somewhat susceptible to fireblight. Champagne requires a pollinizer. Fruit size and quality is enhanced by thinning the fruit when fruit is quite small.
Mc Beth	Mrs. Cooksey	
<b>LONGAN</b>		
Kohala		Most vigorous and productive variety at this time.
<b>MANGO</b>		
Glenn	Keitt	Most varieties are susceptible to powdery mildew and anthracnose in varying degrees. Many varieties to choose from, not all varieties perform well in all areas of San Diego. Mangos like as much heat as you can provide and grow more quickly in the warmer areas of San Diego. Strip fruit from young trees to promote tree growth, and thin fruit clusters to obtain larger fruit when trees are of fruit bearing size.
Kent	Manilla	
Nam Doc Mai	T-1	
Valencia Pride		
<b>PAPAYA</b>		
Babaco	Solo Sunrise	All Papayas require soil with excellent drainage. Babaco is a dwarf, self-fruitful seedless mountain papaya, which has a flavor similar to honeydew melon with lime juice. Somewhat tart, it is very refreshing. Solo papayas are heat lovers. Fruit does not obtain optimum sweetness in San Diego.
<b>WHITE SAPOTE</b>		
Lemon Gold	Louise	Very large trees, size of the tree can be controlled by pruning. Roots are very invasive. Trees are drought tolerant. Fruit is very soft and candy sweet.
McDill	Suebelle	

## FRUITING VINES

<b>DRAGON FRUIT / PITAYA</b>	Many Varieties	<p>These subtropical climbing cactus include several species of the genus <i>Hylocerus</i>. Huge, white flowers occur during the summer and are quite spectacular. Flowers open at night and each flower lasts only one night. Oval fruit average between 3 and 6 inches in size and have either a hot pink or yellow waxy outer shell. Flesh is either white or magenta in color and has tiny black seeds scattered throughout the fruit. Numerous varieties are available. Some varieties are self-fruitful but most require a second variety or species for cross pollinization.</p> <p>Vines require strong support and should be grown in very bright shade or in partial sun.</p>
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<p><b>KIWI FRUIT</b></p>	<p><b><u>TRADITIONAL</u></b>          Vincent - Female          Matua - Male  <b><u>FUZZLESS</u></b>          Anasnaja - Female          Male          Issai - self fruitful</p>	<p>Fast growing deciduous vines require a strong support and proper pruning for good fruit production. Many varieties require relatively high chill hours and are not suitable for areas which receive little or no winter chill. Most types of kiwi fruit are dioecious and require both male and female plants to produce fruit.</p> <p>Traditional varieties are egg sized fruit with a fuzzy brown skin and green flesh. New varieties of these fruit with yellow or orange flesh are becoming available but it is uncertain if these varieties will be suitable for areas which receive little winter chill.</p> <p>Fuzzless kiwi are varieties of <i>Actinidia arguta</i>. The thin skinned fruit are the size of a large grape and are eaten with the skin. Flesh may be green or red.</p>
<p><b>PASSIONFRUIT</b></p>	<p>Black Knight          Frederick      Red          Rover</p>	<p>Fast growing evergreen vines are relatively short lived lasting an average of 7 - 10 years. Frederick and Red Rover are hybrids of <i>Passiflora edulis</i> and <i>P. flavocarpa</i> and are considered to be the best varieties with the largest fruit.</p>