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# Fruit Production in Utah

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# *Fruit Production in Utah*

Larry A. Sagers

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Thanksgiving Point Office



# Fruit Production

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- To Plant Or Not To Plant, That Is The Question

# Fruit Production

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- Changing Times And Changing Tastes  
Make Growing Backyard Fruit More  
Challenging

# Fruit Production

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- Those Pioneers Who First Settled This State Always Planted Fruit Tree
- Even Today There Are A Few Pioneer Trees That Remain As A Tribute To Their Work
- For Generations, Growing Fruit Trees And Storing The Crop Was A Part Of Life In Utah

# Fruit Production

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- Unfortunately That Is No Longer The Case  
Backyard Plantings Of Fruit Trees Are  
Declining

# Fruit Production

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- Lots Are Smaller Now Than They Were Formerly
- Planning And Planting The Home Orchard Is Even More Essential
- There Is Little Space To Waste

# Fruit Production

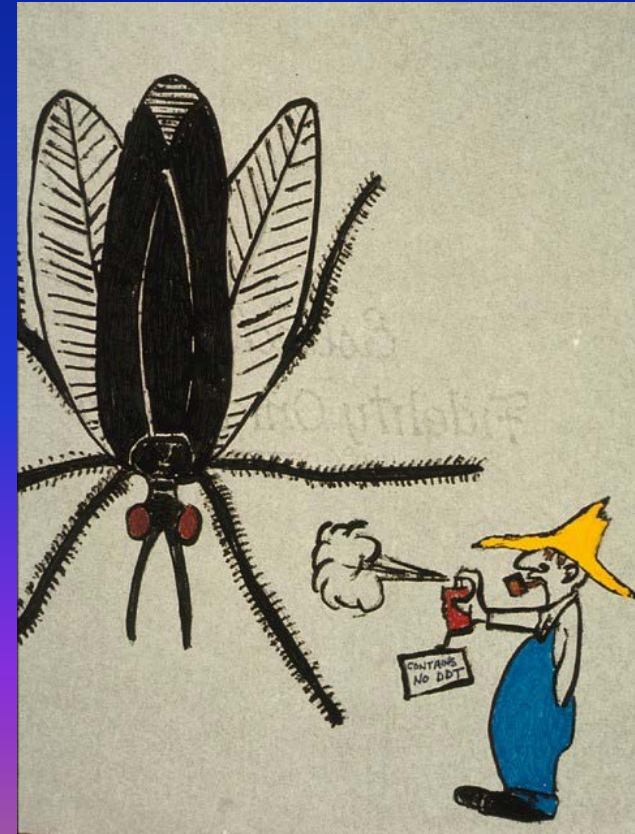
- With A Very Mobile Society, Timing To Get Trees Into Production Is Even More Critical





# Fruit Production

- The Increasing Pest Problems And The Growing Reluctance Of Some To Use Pesticides Discourages Others From Getting Into Fruit Production



# Fruit Production

- Others Have Lost The Time-Honored Tradition Of Preserving Their Harvest And No Longer Want To Bottle Their Crops



# Fruit Production

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- Spring Frosts Are Often Cruel Reminders That We Do Not Control The Weather

# Fruit Production

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- On The Other Side Of The Orchard Fence  
Are The Current Recommendations To Eat  
More Fresh Produce

# Fruit Production

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- Growing Your Own Means You Can Control Everything That Is Applied To The Crops And Also Produce The Varieties You Like

# Fruit Production

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- Best Of All Is The Quality. If You Have Never Had A Tree Ripened, Melt In Your Mouth, Drip Down Your Face Utah Peach, You Have Missed A Wonderful Taste Treat

# Fruit Production

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- Add The Great Feeling Of Producing Your Own Food And The Bragging Rights And Satisfaction That Comes With Sharing Your Produce With Others

# Fruit Production

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- Do Not Overlook The Landscape Effect From Well Cared For Trees
- They Can Offer Shade, Beautiful Blossoms In The Spring
- Color As The Fruit Ripens



# Fruit Production

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- Never Make The Mistake Of Planting What You Really Do Not Want  
Decide What Is A Reasonable Production For Your Family

# Fruit Production

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- Add All These Factors Together And See How The Scale Tips In Your Garden

# Fruit Production

- The First Decision Is To Grow What You Want To Eat



# Fruit Production

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- Pruning, Spraying, Harvesting And The Cleanup Is More Than Most Gardeners Want To Deal With If The Crop Is Just To Be Discarded

# Fruit Production

- For Those With Small Lots, Space May Be The Deciding Factor  
There May Be Room For Only A Few Grape Vines Or Some Strawberry Plants



# Fruit Production

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- These Smaller Trees Produce Fruit Much Sooner And Take Far Less Space

# Fruit Production

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- Most Landscapes Have Fences That Are Difficult To Blend Into The Planting Scheme

# Fruit Production

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- Two-Dimensional Trees Are Often The Easiest Way To Fit Trees Into The Available Space



# Fruit Production

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- This Training System, Called “Espalier,” Was Used To Produce Food In Medieval Castles And Other Walled Areas  
It Is Well Adapted To Smaller Landscapes Of Today

# Fruit Production

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- Fruit Trees Grow Best In Well-Drained Soil  
Tree Roots Need Oxygen

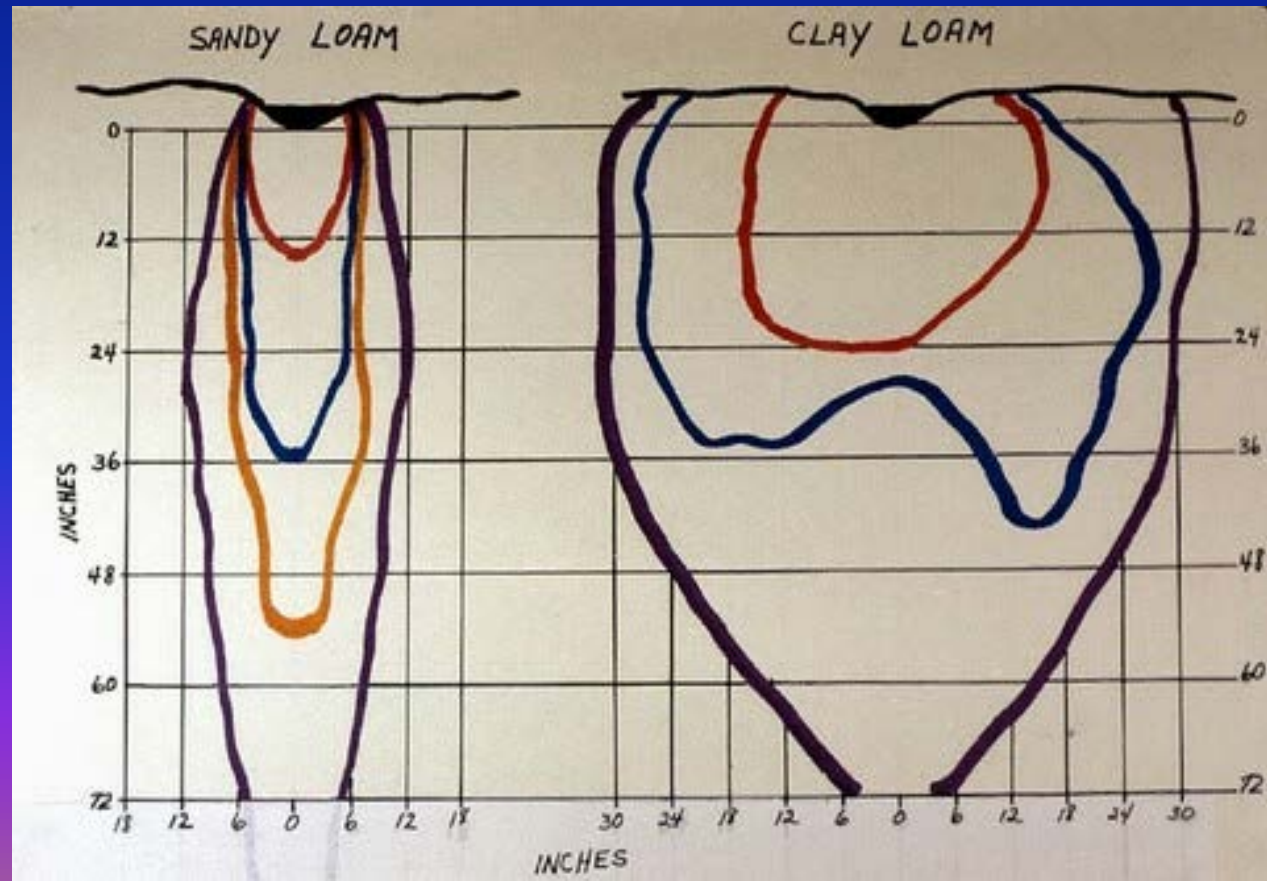
# Fruit Production

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- “Wet Soils” Exclude Oxygen And Are Not Good For Fruit Production

# Fruit Production

- Sandy Soils Drain Well While Clay Soils Tend to Hold Water Too Well



# Fruit Production

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- Avoid These Areas When Planting Your Backyard Orchard

# Fruit Production

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- Drainage Can Be Improved On Small Sites By Using Railroad Ties Or Other Suitable Materials And Raising The Planting Area With A Retaining Wall

# Fruit Production

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- If You Have A Poorly Drained Heavy Clay Soil, Species Selection Is Critical

Pears And Apples Will Tolerate The Problem Better Than Peaches Or Cherries

# Fruit Production

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- Most Fruit Trees Are Grafted Onto Dwarfing Rootstocks And The Number Of Square Feet Required For Each Tree Is Considerably Less Than For Standard Size Trees



# Fruit Production

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- American Type Grapes Such As Concord Will Turn Yellow And Refuse To Grow, While American X European Types Are Less Susceptible To Chlorosis Problems

# Fruit Production

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- Most Fruit Trees Are Grafted Onto Dwarfing Rootstocks And The Number Of Square Feet Required For Each Tree Is Considerably Less Than For Standard Size Trees

# Fruit Production

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- I Have Grass Surrounding Most Of My Trees, But I Only Water The Trees About Every Two Weeks To Keep The Trees From Turning Yellow Or From Getting Root Rot

# Fruit Production

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- Typically Grass Is Irrigated Every Couple Of Days Or Even More Often
- This Chronic Over-Watering Is Often Fatal To The Plants

# Fruit Production

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- If At All Possible, Keep The Trees Out Of The Lawn

# Fruit Production

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- Low Temperatures Are The Most Uncontrollable Part Of Orchard Production This Is Especially In The Early Spring During Blossoming

# Fruit Production

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- Cold Air Moves In A Similar Pattern To Water—From Higher Elevations To Lower Elevations

# Fruit Production

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- Trying To Grow Fruit In These Areas Is, For Want Of A Better Term, “Fruitless” (No Pun Intended)



# Fruit Production

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- The Blossoms Will Likely Freeze Each Spring And The Trees Are Often Damaged By The Cold

# Fruit Production

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- Orchards Were Not Planted In The Valleys Because They Were More Likely To Freeze

# Fruit Production

- If You Are Fortunate Enough To Live On The Bench Areas, You Have Both Good Air Drainage And Good Soil Drainage



# Fruit Production

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- Hot Winds And Hot Temperatures Also Reduce Yields, Especially Small Fruits

# Fruit Production

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- Grow Blackberries, Raspberries And Strawberries Where Natural Barriers Or Buildings Protect The Fruit From South Summer Winds

# Fruit Production

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- Fruit Trees Need Full Sun For Plant Growth And Fruit Development
- Under Ideal Conditions, Try To Plant The Fruit 20 To 30 Feet Away From Medium Size Shade Trees And 40 To 50 Feet From Large Trees

# Fruit Production

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- Careful Planning And Careful Placement Of The Right Plants In The Right Place Will Help You Have A Successful Backyard Orchard

# Fruit Production

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- You Supply The Labor To Prune, Train, Spray And Harvest



# Fruit Production

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- With Luck You Can Produce Wonderful Fruit In Your Personal Orchard

# Fruit Production

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- Coupled With The Soil Problem Is The All Too Frequent Problem Of Trying To Grow Fruit Trees In The Lawn

# Fruit Production

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