



The image cannot be displayed. Your computer may not have enough memory to open the image, or the image may have been corrupted. Restart your computer, and then open the file again. If the red x still appears, you may have to delete the image and then insert it again.

Fruit Production in Utah

Larry A. Sagers
Regional Horticulturist
Utah State University Extension
Thanksgiving Point Office



Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

- 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

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

Fruit Production

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

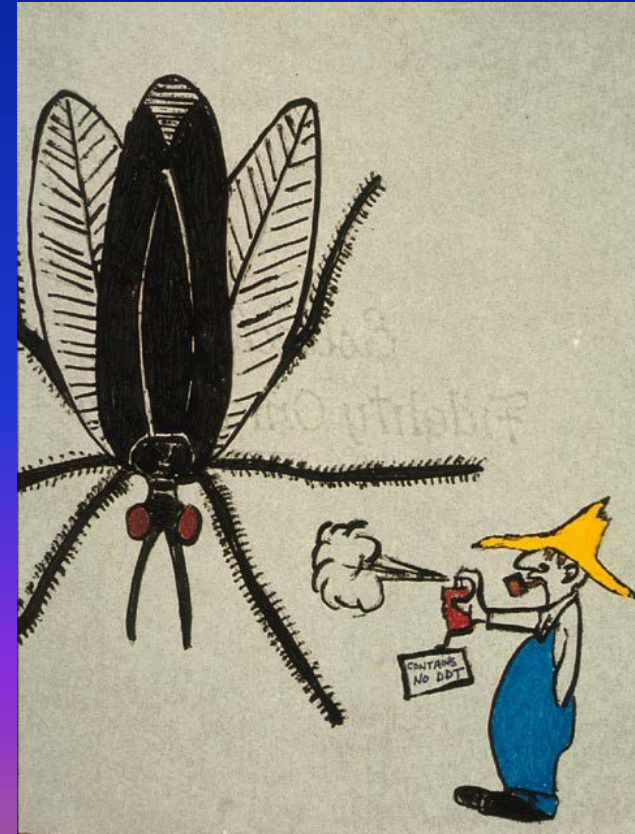
Fruit Production

- 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

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

- 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

- 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

- 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

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

Fruit Production

- 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

- 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

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

- 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

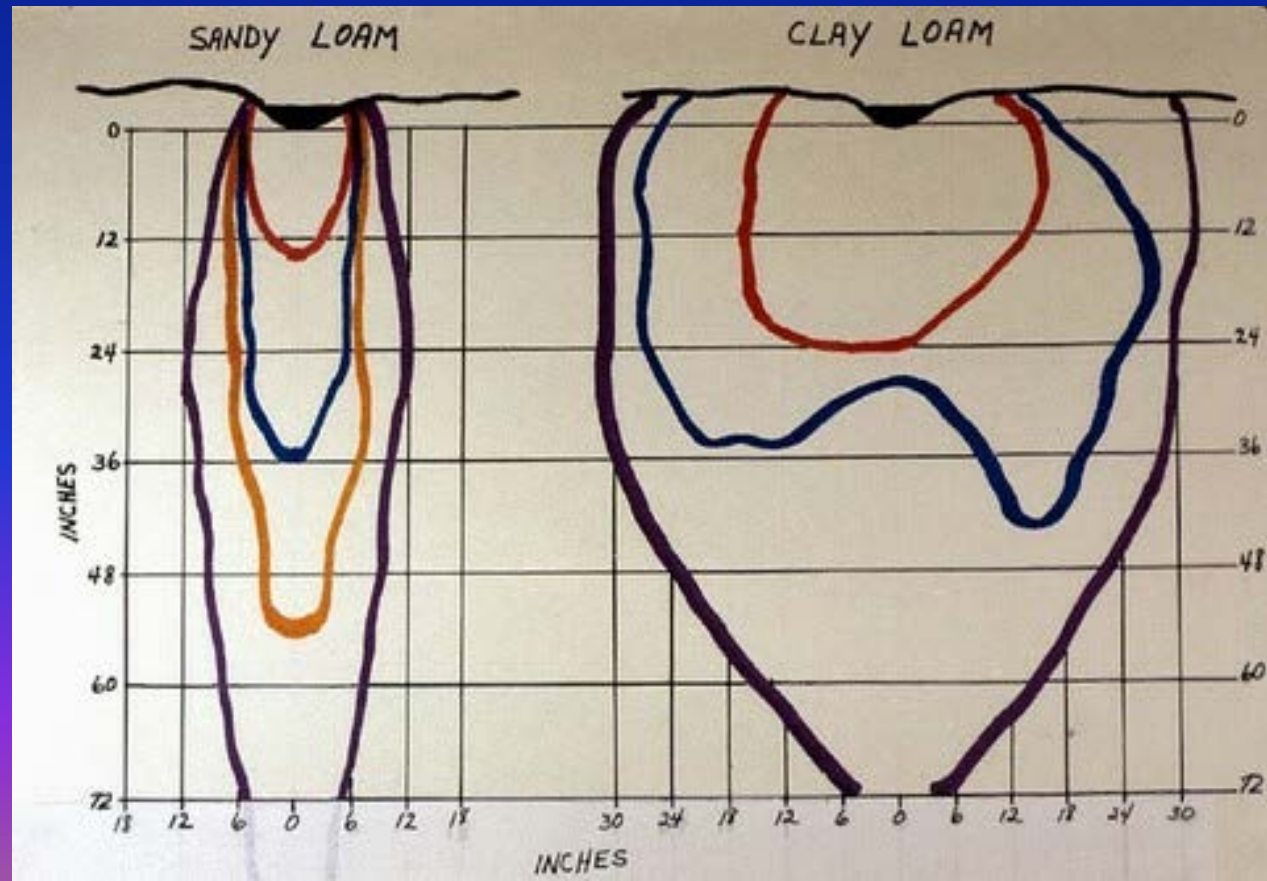
- Fruit Trees Grow Best In Well-Drained Soil
Tree Roots Need Oxygen

Fruit Production

- “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

- Avoid These Areas When Planting Your Backyard Orchard

Fruit Production

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

- 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

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

- 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

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

- 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

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

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

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production

Fruit Production
