



# ***Fruit Production in Utah***

Larry A. Sagers  
Horticulture Specialist  
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



# Fruit Production

- Even Today There Are A Few Pioneer Trees That Remain As A Tribute To Their Work



# Fruit Production

- 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 Planting Trees Are Declining



# Fruit Production

- Lots Are Smaller Now Than They Were Formerly





# Fruit Production

- Planning And Planting The Home Orchard Is Even More Essential



# Fruit Production

- There Is Little Space To Waste



# Fruit Production

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



# 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 Deal With 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 Lets You Control Everything Applied To The Crops And 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



# 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 Plant What You Really Do Not Want  
And Decide What Is A Reasonable Amount



# 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 Cleanup Is More Than Most Gardeners Want To Deal With If The Crop Is To Be Discarded



# Fruit Production

- For Those With Small Lots, Space May Be The Deciding Factor So Use The Room For A Few Grapes Or Strawberries.





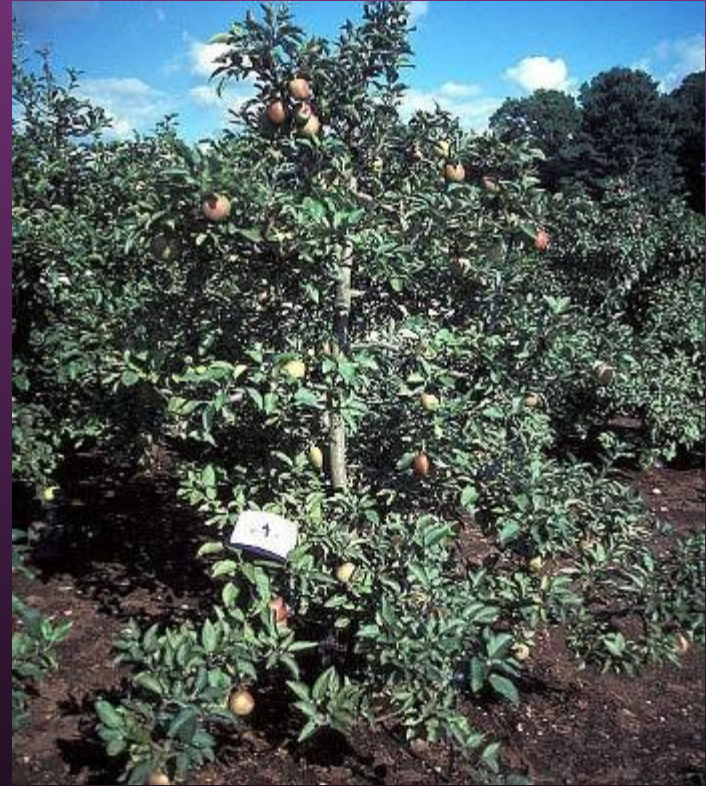
# Fruit Production

- Smaller Trees Produce Fruit Much Sooner And Take Far Less



# Fruit Production

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



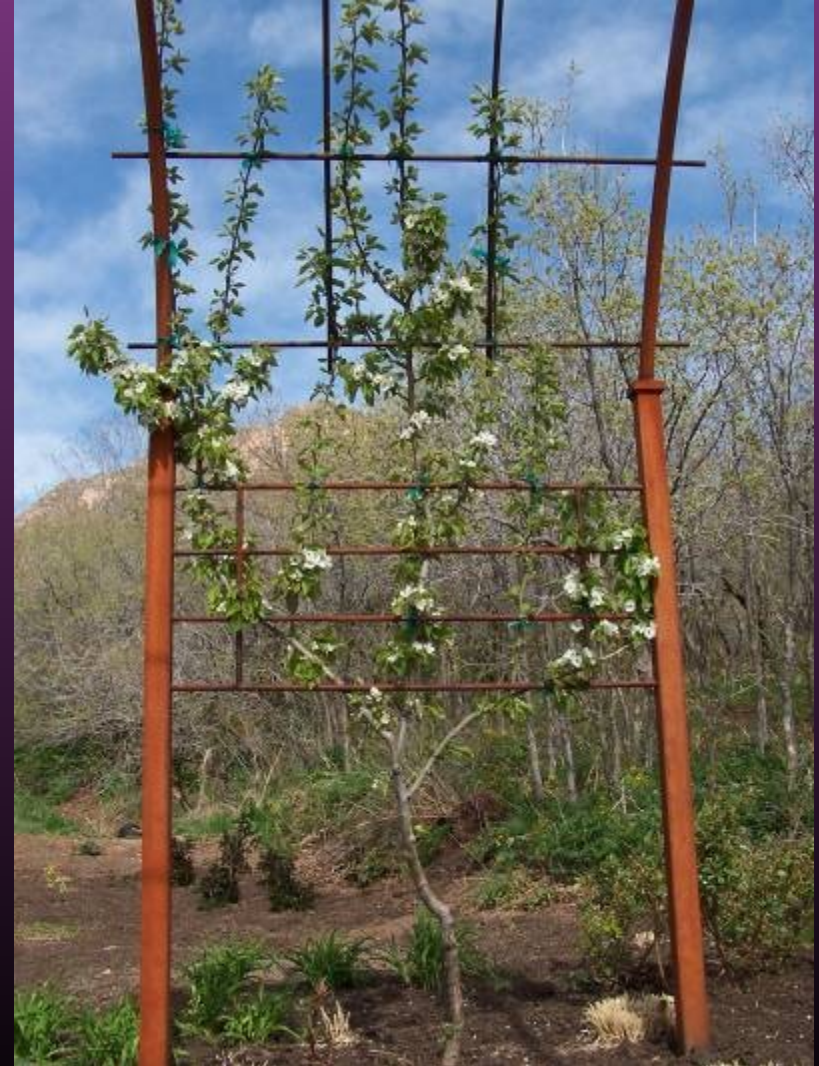
# Fruit Production

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



# Fruit Production

- Two-Dimensional Trees Are Easy Ways To Fit Trees Into The Space



# Fruit Production

- This Training System, Called “Espalier,” Was Used To Produce Food In Medieval Castles And Other Restricted Areas



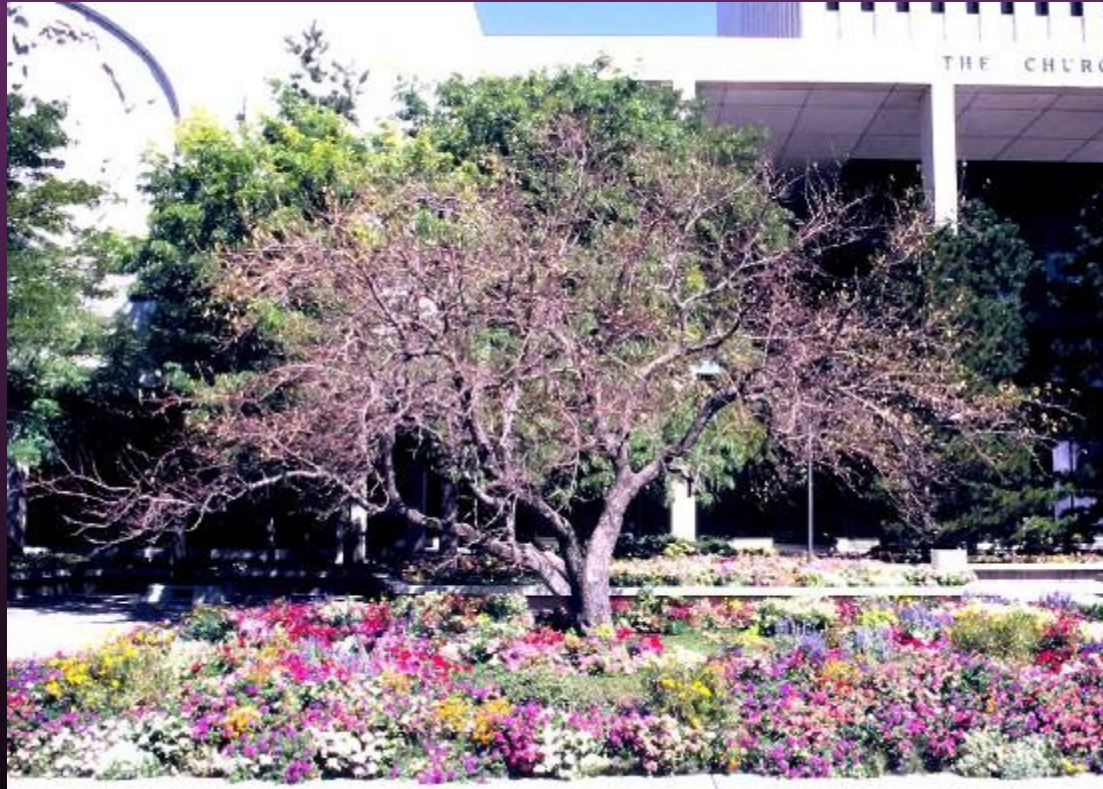
# Fruit Production

- It Is Well Adapted To Smaller Landscapes Of Today



# Fruit Production

- Fruit Trees Grow Best In Well-Drained Soil
- Tree



# Fruit Production

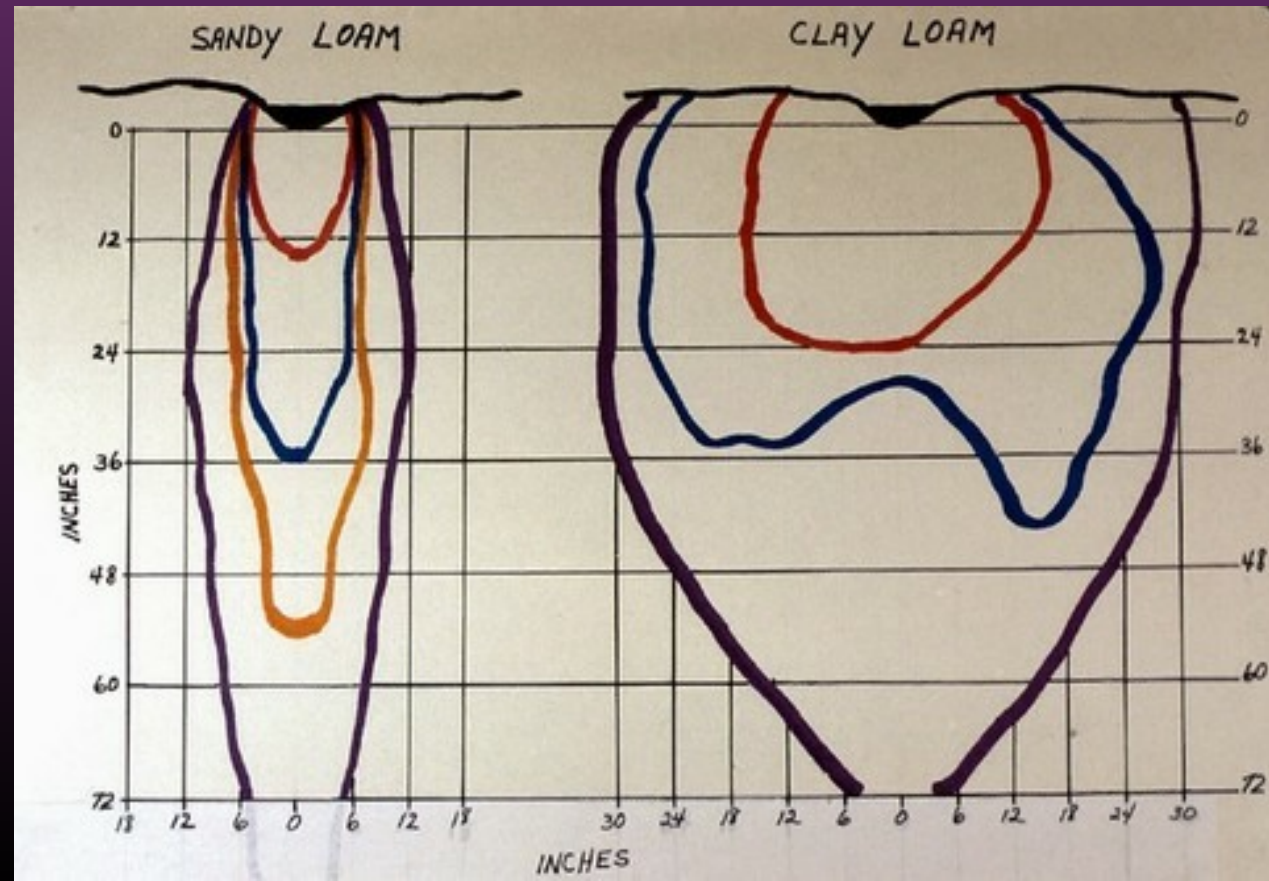
- “Wet Soils” Exclude Oxygen And Are Not Good For Fruit Production





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

# 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

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



# 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 More Often And Chronic Over-Watering Is Often Fatal To Trees





# Fruit Production

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



# Fruit Production

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



# 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

- For A Successful Orchard, Carefully Select And Place The Best Plants In The Right Place



# 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

