Fruit Production in Utah

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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 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 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 Space.
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 Walled Areas
Fruit Production

- It is well adapted to smaller landscapes of today.
Fruit Production

• Fruit Trees Grow Best In Well-Drained Soil
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 Lawn.
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 Lawn
Fruit Production

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