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Fruit Production in Utah

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Fruit Production in Utah

Larry A. Sagers

Regional Horticulturist

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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
- 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

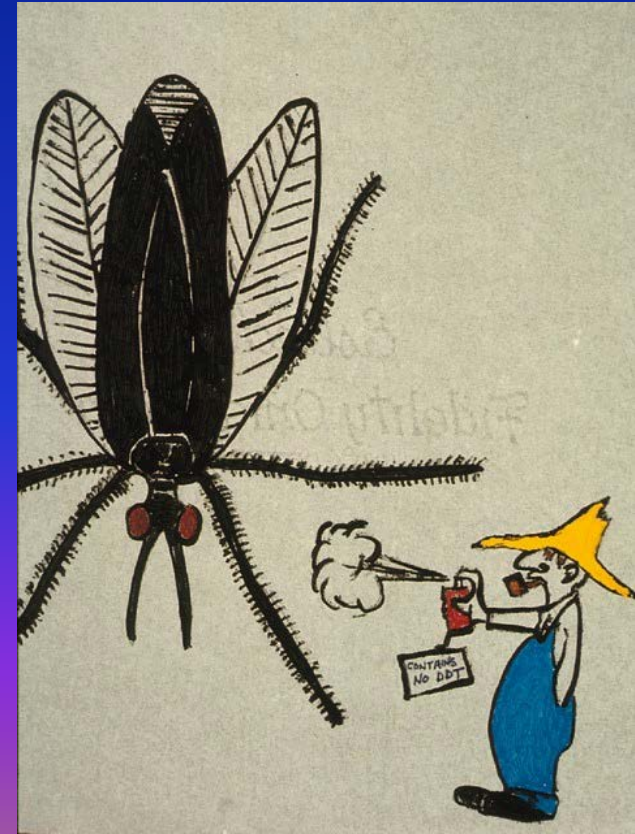
Fruit Production

- 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

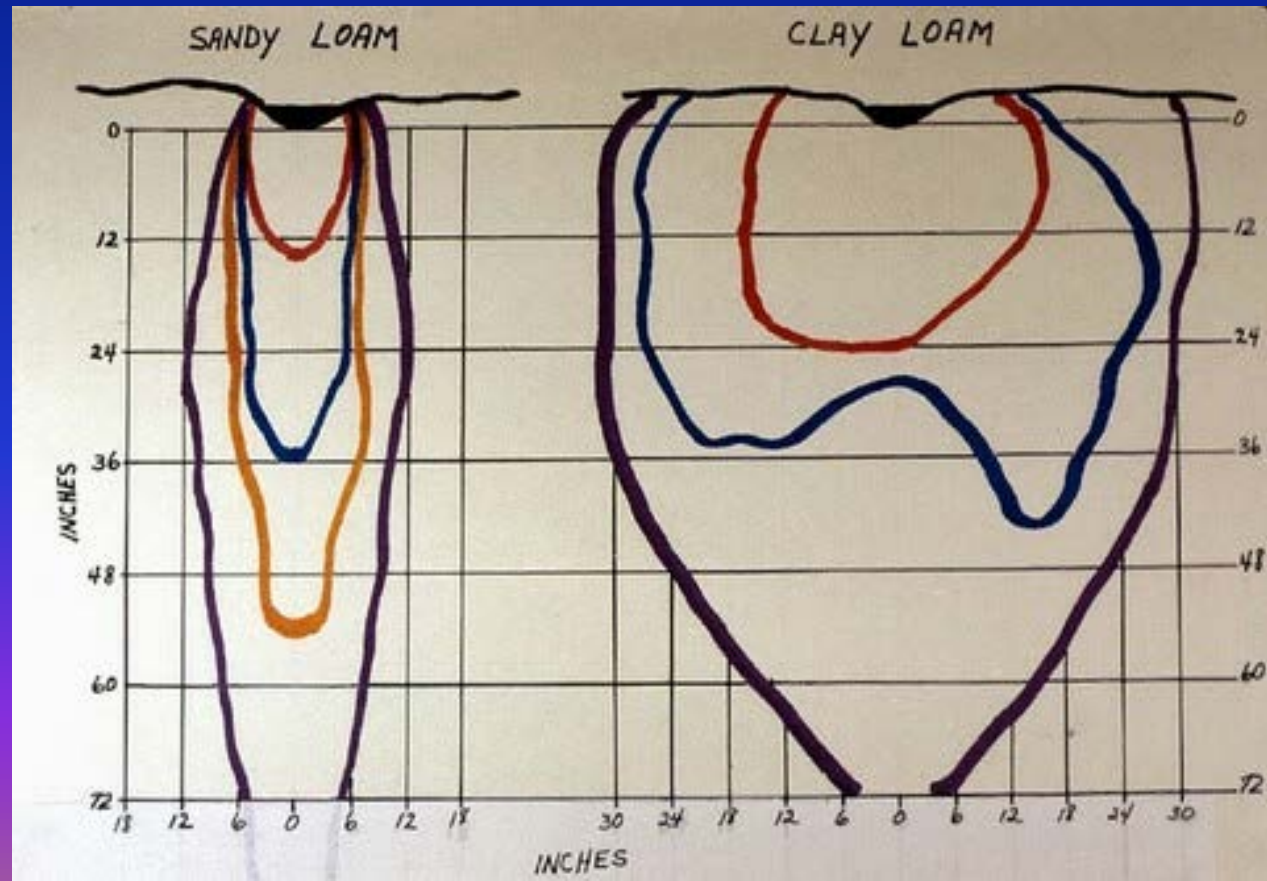
- Fruit Trees Grow Best In Well-Drained Soil
Tree Roots Need Oxygen

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

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