

Fall Fruit and Nut Tree Sale

All selections of fruit and nut trees, vines, and shrubs offered in this sale are of varieties proven to perform well in Eastern North Carolina. Plants will be delivered field dug and bare root (without soil). Plan to plant or heel in plants immediately after delivery. Care instructions will be available at pick up. All orders are due with payment to Johnston County Extension by **Friday, November 14, 2008**. Please make arrangements to pick up your plants at Johnston County Cooperative Extension (2736 NC 210 Highway, Smithfield (919) 989-5380) on **Friday, December 12, 2008 between 8am and 5pm**. **Pecans will be ready for pick up on Friday January 23, 2009.**

Tips and Considerations

Site Selection

Proper site selection is critical in growing healthy, productive plants. All plants offered produce best in full sun. Blueberries are the most shade tolerant of the fruit plants available, and will produce even at 50% shade.

Good air circulation will help in reducing disease outbreaks. Plant all plants well away from buildings and tall trees. Avoid low-lying areas, or frost pockets, in order to protect spring blossoms.

Good drainage is essential for all fruit plants. If you have poorly drained soil and wish to grow fruit plants, create raised beds by mounding up the soil or using some type of construction material for the sides. Beds need to be at least 12 inches deep.

Soil Testing

Once you select the site, take a soil sample and submit it to NCDA-Agronomic Division for analysis. Test results will provide advise on the amount of lime and nutrients needed. Most fruit plants perform best at a pH of 6.0, except blueberries, which need a slightly more acidic soil.

It is important to incorporate lime and nutrients into the soil at the time of planting. Information on soil testing, forms, and boxes can be obtained from the NC Cooperative Extension Service. Soil testing is completely free and results are sent directly to you.

Nematode Testing

Nematodes are microscopic round worms, which can adversely affect plant health. Soil samples can be submitted to NCDA for nematode testing at a cost of \$3.00 per sample. Figs and peaches can be severely affected by high nematode populations. Populations are highest on sandy soils. If you are considering growing figs or peaches, and have sandy soil, a nematode test is recommended.

Pollination

Apples, pears, blueberries, and pecans require more than one variety for fruit set. Be sure to order at least two varieties of each of these fruit plants.

Summary: We advise that once you have selected a site for your new plants, you take a soil sample to have tested for nutrients and pH as soon as possible. If you are purchasing fig bushes or peach trees, we also suggest you have a nematode assay done.

Note: These trees and shrubs are offered to you at wholesale, delivered prices; therefore, the nursery cannot guarantee livability of plant material, because they are bare root trees. Since all plants are bare-root, make plans to plant them immediately after you pick them up on December 12th for fruit trees and January 23rd for pecans.

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Fall Fruit and Nut Tree Sale

2008, Sponsored by
Johnston County Cooperative Extension Advisory Council

APPLES

\$10.00 each

4-5 ft. tall plants

Apples perform best on rich soils with good drainage and require full sun. Optimum soil pH is 6.0. You will need more than one apple variety to ensure adequate cross-pollination. For our area, Yellow Delicious is an excellent pollinator. Trees should be spaced 25 feet apart. Although our warm, Johnston County nights might prevent red apples from developing an intense red color, the flavor of these apples will be just as delicious as those grown elsewhere.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Ripens</i>	<i>Fruit</i>	<i>Fruit Characteristics</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Yellow Delicious*	Mid Sept.	Med-Large	Greenish yellow skin. Yellow, firm flesh.	Good fresh or cooking; Excellent Pollinator
Red Delicious	Early Sept.	Med	Striped to solid red skin. Yellow, firm flesh	Better for fresh eating than for cooking.
Arkansas Black	Oct.-Nov.	Med	Dark, almost black red skin. Flesh is crisp, firm, and tart.	Heirloom variety good for fresh eating.
Winesap	October	Small	Deep Red color; crisp yet juicy; strong, rich flavor in yellow flesh	Good for fresh eating and excellent for cooking
Granny Smith	Late Oct-Dec	Med	Most often picked green, but a little blush provides better flavor	Good for baking, juice, or sauce

PEACHES

\$10.00 each

4-5 ft. tall, 1 yr. Old plants

Peaches are among the most challenging but rewarding fruits to grow. They require excellent drainage, full sun, good air circulation, and watering during drought. Peaches are self-pollinating and only one tree is needed for fruit set. A multi-purpose fungicide and insecticide program will be needed during the growing season. Trees should be spaced 20 feet apart. Be sure and test for nematodes, especially on sandy soils.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Ripens</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Fruit Characteristics</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Dixie Red	Mid June	Med	Mostly red skin with red-flecked yellow flesh.	Clingstone; late blooming, escapes late frost; low browning tendency; good resistance to bacterial spot.
Clayton	Late June	Med	75% red skin with yellow background. Yellow flesh with red around the pit.	Freestone fruit; resistant to browning; excellent flavor; great for fresh eating; high resistance to bacterial spot.
Windblo	Mid July	Large	75% red skin with yellow background. Light yellow flesh.	Freestone fruit; developed for N.C.; resists browning; excellent flavor.
Bisco	Mid-late season	Large	Yellow flesh. Red over yellow skin color.	Freestone fruit; good for canning; high quality fruit; good resistance to bacterial spot.

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PEARS

\$10.00 each

4-5 ft. tall plants

You will need more than one pear variety to ensure cross-pollination. For our area, Moonglow is an excellent pollen source. Trees should be spaced 20 feet apart. Harvest pears after they have reached full size but are still firm and green (about 105 to 130 days after full bloom). You can then ripen them by placing them in a closed bag with a ripe apple and placing the bag in a moderately cool location (60 to 70 degrees) for several days. Fire blight is a major problem on pears in the South. Avoid this by selecting fire blight resistant varieties like those below.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Ripens</i>	<i>Fruit</i>	<i>Fruit Characteristics</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Moonglow	Early August	Large	Yellow skin at maturity with soft-textured flesh and few grit cells.	Good fresh or canned. Resistant to fire blight. Excellent pollinator.
Seckel	August/September	Small	Reddish brown skin, 2" diameter fruit have sweet, aromatic flavor with few grit cells.	Excellent for fresh eating and canning. Moderately resistant to fire blight.
Keiffer	Early September	Large	Yellow skin at maturity; course gritty flesh; knotty, unattractive fruit.	An old favorite for canning or preserves. Resistant to fire blight.
Orient*	Early August	Large	Greenish-yellow skin with white pulp	Excellent for cooking and preserving

BLUEBERRIES

\$7.00 each

12-18 inches tall, 3 yr. Old plants

Blueberries require a well-drained sandy soil with abundant organic matter and a pH of 4.5 to 5.8. They will bear well in full sun to light shade. Four to six inches of mulch helps reduce water stress. Under these conditions plants produce in abundance. The following Rabbit eye varieties produce best when at least two different varieties are planted together.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Ripens</i>	<i>Fruit</i>	<i>Fruit Characteristics</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Premier	Late May/June	Large	Light blue berries	High quality, good flavor
Delite	Late June/July	Large	Light blue berries	Excellent flavor, late crop
Tiftblue	June – July	Med/Lg	Light blue berries	Consistent high yields, good flavor
Jersey	Late	Medium	Light blue berries	Sweet Flavor

BLACKBERRIES

\$7.00 each

1 yr. Old plants

Blackberries are among the easiest fruits to grow. They tolerate most soils and fruit best in full sun. Space plants 3' apart.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Hull	Semi-trailing	Mid	Excellent yields of soft, sweet berries. Requires trellising. Thornless
Arapaho	Erect	Very early	Self-supporting canes, earliest variety to ripen. Sweet fruit, average yield Thornless
Navaho	Erect	Late	Sweet, high quality berries, good yield, self-supporting canes; Stores well. Thornless

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FIGS

\$7.00 each

2-3 ft. tall plants

Figs are as close as it gets to a fruit you can plant and forget. They prefer a moisture retentive, well-drained soil and full sun. On sandy soils be sure to test for nematodes. Incorporate plenty of organic matter and mulch deeply. Figs are self fertile – One bush sets fruit. Space 10 feet apart.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Ripens</i>	<i>Fruit</i>	<i>Fruit Characteristics</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Brown Turkey	Early July to early Aug	Med / Large	Light coppery brown shin with amber flesh	Also called Texas Everbearing; Good fresh or canned.
Celeste	Mid July	Small	Violet or light brown skin with Strawberry pink flesh	Good fresh, canned or preserved.

MUSCADINES

\$7.00 each

2 yr. Old plants

Our native Muscadines tolerate a wide range of conditions, but perform best in moisture retentive well-drained soil and full sun, with a deep mulch of organic matter. The varieties below are perfect flowered and self-fruitful. Muscadines produce best and are easiest to manage when trained on a clothesline like trellis called the Geneva double curtain.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Color</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Carlos	Early	Bronze	Medium sized grapes excellent for fresh eating or wine.
Cowart	Mid	Black	Very large fruit with high sugar content.
Jumbo	Mid-Late	Black	Largest of muscadine grapes, sweet & delicious taste
Fry	Mid-season	Bronze	Medium-Large size, excellent quality, popular bronze

PECANS

\$20.00 each

4-5 ft tall plants

Pecans are native to the Mississippi River basin and prefer deep, rich, well-drained soils. Nut production requires cross-pollination between a Type I and Type II variety. Trees in a mature orchard should be at least 50 feet apart. Scab is a common disease caused by a fungus that attacks the leaves and the shuck. Manage the disease by choosing scab-resistant varieties, such as the ones below.

<i>Varieties</i>	<i>Bearing Age</i>	<i>Nuts/lb</i>	<i>Fruit Characteristics</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Pawnee *	6-7 years	54	Type I, nut matures early	USDA introduction 1984. Moderate Scab Resistance
Gloria	7-9 years	48	Type II, matures early,	Resistant to pecan scab
Stuart	8 to 10 years	48	Type II, Nuts are 48%	Popular for consistent high yields on mature trees;
Sumner	5 to 6 years	55	Type II, Nuts are 52 %	Consistent cropper with medium sized high quality

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For More Information:

When deciding which fruit plants to grow in your home garden be sure to think about the following:

- ✓ Do you have an appropriate site – full sun, well-drained soil?
- ✓ Maintenance requirements: pest management; training and pruning requirements; irrigation.
- ✓ Do you have space for plants to mature?
- ✓ What is your soils pH? Do you need to add lime or nutrients? Have you done a soil test?

For more information consult the following publications online, or stop by the Johnston County Center of the NC Cooperative Extension Service located at 2736 NC 210 Highway in Smithfield to pick up a copy.

Horticulture Information Leaflets

www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/hil/hfruitnew.html

8200 Blackberries for the Home Garden
8206 Pruning and Training Thornless
Blackberries
8203 Muscadine Grapes in the Home Garden
8207 Growing Blueberries in the Home Garden
8301 Growing Apple Trees in the Home Garden

Extension Bulletins

www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/ag_publications.htm

AG-15 Grapes and Berries for the Garden
AG-28 Producing Tree Fruit for Home Use
AG-29 Training and Pruning Fruit Trees
AG-30 Growing Peaches in NC
AG-81 Growing Pecans in NC
AG-614 A Gardeners Guide to Soil Testing
AG-80 Growing Pears in NC

For a copy of the order form visit

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/johnston/homehort2/08_Order_Form.pdf