



UNCE Orchard Fruit Evaluations and Recommendations 2009

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Fruit trees were originally planted at the Orchard site beginning in 1997. Fruit trees are grown in 10 X 10 spacings in orchard rows. All trees were planted as bareroot plants and amended with compost at the time of planting. Wood mulch from green waste, provided by Tony Valente of First Choice Tree Service, covers the surface of the orchard to a depth of 4 to 6 inches. Fruit trees are pruned annually to heights of 6 ½ to 7 feet to keep the Orchard “ladderless”. Although not a certified organic orchard, pesticides used are “organic” in nature following a “least toxic” philosophy. Orchard volunteers, consisting of both Master Gardeners and community volunteers, provide most of the work at the Orchard. Fruit from the Orchard is sold to local restaurants, farmers markets and the local community to recover the costs of production. After recordkeeping of a variety is completed, trees are removed and replaced with other varieties to gather information on the varieties of fruit that grows best and produces the best fruit in the Mojave Desert.

Evaluations categories are: *Top Choice* for those fruit trees providing exceptional fruit and tree health; *Honorable Mention* for those which provided very good fruit and very good health in our climate and *Under Review* for those which have not been growing long enough for multiple year evaluations or have been inconsistent.

Evaluation trials were conducted from 2005 – 2009. Fruit tree evaluations were made through taste evaluations of the fruit and midsummer evaluations of the trees themselves and their performance at the UNCE Orchard in North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Most of the fruit trees were provided by Dave Wilson Nursery in cooperation with research and demonstrations provided by the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. More general information about these fruit can be obtained by visiting Dave Wilson Nursery’s website at:

<http://www.davewilson.com/homegrown/homeindex1.html>. Wine grapes were provided by Duarte Nursery and nopal cactus provided by faculty at the Universidad de Sonora in Hermosillo, Mexico.

Much gratitude to Tom Spellman of Dave Wilson Nursery, Maxwell Norton of the University of California and John Arellano of Duarte Nursery who provided much needed assistance in the ongoing management plan of the UNCE Orchard. Others who provided assistance include Rick Hefflebower of Utah State University Cooperative Extension and Rob Call of the University of Arizona.



Almonds – Most almonds do extremely well in southern Nevada and make excellent landscape trees.

Recommended rootstock: Nemaguard but others have performed adequately over the long term.

Top Choice

- All in One – Genetic Dwarf, Self pollinating
- Garden Prince – Genetic Dwarf, Self pollinating, flowers white with purple

Notable Mention

- Price
- Nonpariel

Under Review

- Carmel
- Neplus Ultra

Apples – Not all apples do well in southern Nevada and range from “best apple ever tasted” to “tasteless” depending on variety

Recommended dwarfing rootstock: M111; avoid extreme dwarfing rootstocks due to fruit sunburn because of too much fruit exposure.

Top Choice

- Dorsett Golden – Early Season, yellow fruit
- Pink Lady (Cripps Pink) – Late Season, red over green fruit

Notable Mention

- Anna – Early season
- Einshemer – Early season
- Fuji – Mid season
- Gordon – Mid season
- Mutsu (Crispin) – Mid season
- White Winter Pearmain – Mid to late season

Under Review

- Akane
- Arkansas Black
- Asmead Kernel
- Babe (Genetic Dwarf)
- Gala
- Granny Smith
- Red Fuji
- Scarlet Sentinel Columnar
- Yellow Newton Pippen



Apricot – Most apricots do well in southern Nevada and have wonderful flavor

Recommended rootstock: Nemaguard preferred but others have performed adequately over the long term.

Top Choice

- Blenheim (Royal) - early
- Flavor Delight (Aprium; actually a plum apricot hybrid but fruit marketed as an apricot) very early
- Gold Kist – very early
- Moorpark - early
- Royal Rosa – excellent landscape tree, very early

Notable Mention

- Canadian Blenheim White - early
- Chinese - early
- Early Golden - early
- Flora Gold – very early
- Katy – excellent landscape tree, very early

Under Review (Early results are good on all)

- Autumn Glo
- Early Autumn
- Goldcot
- Harcot
- Tomcot

Aprium – Plum apricot hybrid that does extremely well in our climate

Recommended Rootstock: Nemaguard but others have performed adequately over the long term.

Top Choice

- Flavor Delight – See apricot since the fruit is marketed as an apricot, very early

Asian Pear – Performs surprisingly well in our climate and we are currently working on increasing the size of the fruit

Recommended Rootstock: OHxF333 but others have performed well

Under Review

- Chojuro
- Hosui
- Kikusui
- Shinko
- Shinseiki
- Tsu Li
- Twentieth Century
- Ya Li

Blackberry – Struggles in this climate and soils but produces acceptable fruit



Top Choice

None

Notable Mention

- Rosborough
- Womack

Under Review

None

Cactus, Nopal – For fresh vegetable (nopalitos) and fruit (tuna) and extremely well adapted for this climate

Top Choice

- Copena F1
- Copena V1

Notable Mention

None

Under Review

None

Cherry, Sour. To be planted in 2010.

Cherry, Sweet – Inconsistent fruit production and not reliable in this climate. Newer, low chill varieties to be planted in 2010.

Top Choice

None

Notable Mention

None

Under Review

- Bing
- Black Tartarian
- Craig's Crimson
- Lapins
- Royal Ann

Cherry Plum – Hybrids between cherry plum and Japanese plum

Recommended Rootstock: Nemaguard preferred but others have performed adequately over the long term.

Top Choice

None



Notable Mention

None

Under Review

- Delight
- Sprite

Figs – Most figs do well in this climate.

Top Choice

- Black Mission – dark purple skin with strawberry colored flesh
- Janice – greenish-yellow (white) skin with light greenish amber flesh with few seeds

Notable Mention

- Kadota

Under Review

- Brown Turkey
- Celestial
- Flanders
- King (Desert King)
- LSU Purple
- White Genoa

Grapes, Table – Nearly all table grapes do well in our climate

Top Choice

- Blush
- Fantasy
- Flame

Notable Mention

- Harmony
- Himrod
- Perlette
- Thompson Seedless

Under Review

- Italia
- Princess
- Black Monnuka

Grapes, Wine – Many wine grapes are very productive in our climate but taste evaluations and winemaking is under review.



Recommended Rootstock: own roots, 110R, 1103P but others suitable for the characteristics of desert soils have done well

Top Choice

None

Honorable Mention

- Primitivo
- Summer Muscat
- Zinfandel

Under Review

- Alicante Bouschet
- Cabernet Franc
- Cabernet Sauvignon
- Chardonnay
- Grenache
- Italia
- Marsanne
- Merlot
- Petite Syrah
- Pinot Noir
- Sangiovese
- Sauvignon Blanc
- Syrah Noir
- Tempranillo
- Viognier

Jujube – aka Chinese Date or Indian Fig does very well in our climate

Top Choice

- Li

Honorable Mention

- Lang

Under Review

None

Nectarine – Nectarines do well in our climate but vary in fruit quality and some taste pretty bad.

Recommended Rootstock: Nemaguard but others have performed adequately over the long term.

Top Choice

- Arctic Star

Honorable Mention

- Arctic Glo
- Arctic Rose
- Desert Dawn
- Desert Delight
- Double Delight



Under Review

- Arctic Gold
- Garden Delight – Miniature
- Goldmine
- Independence
- Liz’s Late
- Necta Zee – Miniature
- Panamint

Peach – Peaches do extremely well in our climate and have received praise from internationally recognized chefs.

Recommended Rootstock: Nemaguard but others have performed adequately over the long term.

Top Choice

- Babcock – White, mid season
- Eva’s Pride – Early season
- May Pride – Early season
- Mid Pride – Mid season
- Starks Saturn – Donut peach, white flesh, mid season

Honorable Mention

- Arctic Supreme - white flesh, mid season
- Desert Gold -
- Earlitreat – Earliest producer
- Early Amber – Early season
- Early Elberta -
- Elberta – Mid season
- FloridaPrince – Early season
- Red Baron – Showy flowers, good landscape tree, mid season
- Red Haven – Mid season

Under Review

- Arctic Jay – White
- Carnival
- Double Jewel
- Elegant Lady - White
- Fairtime
- Gold Dust
- Harken
- Indian Free
- July Elberta (Kim)
- Nectar White - White
- O’Henry – Late season
- Rio Oso Gem
- Snow Beauty - White
- Snow Giant - White
- Snow King - White
- Strawberry Free - White
- Sugar Lady - White
- Summerset
- Sweet Bagel – Donut peach, yellow
- Tra Zee – Late season
- Tropic Snow -White
- White Heath Cling - White
- White Lady – White



Peach, Miniature – These are typically peaches which are genetic dwarf and fruit quality is often not as comparable to standard peach trees.

Top Choice

- Bonanza – Mid season

Honorable Mention

- El Dorado – Mid season
- Pix Zee – Mid season

Under Review

- Honey Babe
- Garden Gold
- Garden Sun

Pear, European – European pears do quite well in taste but may not have the same visual appeal as commercially grown pears. Most are “dessert” pears and grown for fresh eating.

Recommended Rootstock: Many

Top Choice

- Kieffer – Salad pear, nicknamed “Jicama pear” with flavor resembling an Asian pear, good for canning and baking and virtually pest free

Honorable Mention

- Bartlett
- Monterrey
- Red Bartlett

Under Review

- Bosc
- California
- Comice
- D’Anjou
- Hood

Persimmon – Fruit is excellent quality but can suffer from sun damage. Trees require some protection from winds, soil amendments and more frequent irrigations.

Top Choice

- Fuyu

Honorable Mention

- Hachiya but low fruit retention most years



Under Review

- Chocolate
- Coffeecake
- Giant Fuyu
- Niunai
- Tamopan

Plum – Plums do well in our climate. The most common fresh plums are Japanese plums.

Recommended Rootstock: Nemaguard but other rootstocks have performed adequately over the long term.

Top Choice

- Santa Rosa
- Santa Rosa, Weeping – landscape tree form of Santa Rosa
- Emerald Beauty

Honorable Mention

- Beauty
- Burbank
- Burgundy
- Elephant Heart
- French Improved – Prune
- Italian Prune – Prune

Under Review

- Catalina
- Green Gage – European plum

Plumcot – Apricot plum hybrid

Under Review

Plum Parfait

Pluot – A very complex hybrid of apricot and plum that has developed a very high sugar level and complex flavors when tree ripened

Recommended Rootstock: Nemaguard but other rootstocks have performed adequately over the long term.

Top Choice

- Flavor King
- Flavor Queen

Honorable Mention

- Flavor Supreme

Under Review



- Dapple Dandy
- Flavorosa
- Flavor Delight
- Flavor Finale
- Flavor Grenade
- Geopride

Pomegranate – Pomegranates do wonderfully in our climate and produce superior fruit.

Top Choice

- Eversweet

Honorable Mention

- Sweet
- Wonderful

Under Review

- Ambrosia
- Grenada
- Sharp Velvet

Quince – Quince does extremely well in this climate presently with no disease or insect problems but can suffer from iron chlorosis.

Top Choice

- Pineapple

Under Review

- Orange

Contact

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UNCE Research and Demonstration Orchard
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Suggested Times: Tuesdays and Saturdays, 8 am to noon

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