

# Pieter Severynen, ASLA

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT & ARBORIST

## LOW CHILL FRUIT TREES FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

We can grow a huge selection of fruit trees in Southern California, but there are also quite a few that don't do so well here. Our climate is unusually mild, most fruit trees normally receive the necessary heat for fruit ripening, unless located very close to the ocean, but they often don't experience enough winter cold for proper bud break and fruit set. Winter cold is measured in terms of winter chill hours, very roughly and approximately speaking the number of hours November through January that daily temperatures here go below 45°F. Low chill need trees, those that get by with fewer than 300 winter chill hours, easily get their winter cold needs met; you can safely plant these here and expect good fruit. Low-moderate need trees at 250-400 hours will usually do ok; those in the 400-500 hours range become borderline, depending on the particular winter and location, while moderate winter chill need trees, at 500-700 chill hours requirement will probably not perform well here. Don't even try planting fruit trees in the 750-1000 hour range unless you are a hard core experimenter. To be safe, select low chill varieties; be aware that not everyone agrees about these numbers and that local microclimates may differ significantly, thus also influencing fruit set and quality.

Some nurseries here do not pay enough attention to the winter chill factor and sell higher need fruit trees that won't do well in the local area. Check the number listed on the tree tag; ask questions; consult the Sunset Western Garden Book and other great garden books; and visit one of the chapters of the California Rare Fruit Growers Association for more information. Winter chill is only one of the determining factors in fruit production: please see my other publications about fruit tree selection, planting, maintenance and soil microbiology. And try to taste a particular fruit before buying the tree of that name.

### DECIDUOUS FRUIT TREES

**Almond:** All varieties will do well, need 200-300 Winter Chill Hours;

**Apple:** Classic wisdom says only a few do well: Dorsett Golden (<100); Anna, Beverly Hills, Ein Shemer, Gala; Gordon, Fuji, Tropical Beauty, Pettingil, Yellow Bellflower, Winter Banana, Winter Pearmain, (<300); Pink Lady (200-400); Granny Smith, Braeburn?; Gala (<500); Kevin Hauser of Kuffel Creek Apple Nursery, Riverside, CA challenges that idea, claims far more can be grown;

**Apricot:** Gold Kist (300); Katy (400); Newcastle;

**Aprium:** Flavor Delight (<300); Cot-N-Candy (<400);

**Asian Pear:** <300: Chojuro, Hosui, Niitaka, Shinko, Tsu Li, Ya Li;

**Blueberry:** Emerald, Misty, Sharpblue (150); Jewel, Pink Lemonade, Sunshine Blue (200);

**Cherry, sweet:** Royal Lee, Royal Lynn, Minie Royal (100-300); Stella (400?);

**Cherry, sour:** None; all need high winter cold;

**Currant:** None. All need high winter cold.

**Fig:** All need 100: Brown Turkey, Celeste, Lsu Purple, Mayhaw, Black Jack, Black Mission, Celestial, Conadria, Flanders, Improved Brown Turkey, Janice Seedless Kadota, Kadota, King, Osborne, Panache, White Genoa;

**Grape:** All need <100;

**Jujube:** Very little cold needed;

1728 GARTH AVE. LOS ANGELES, CA 90035 PH: OFF. 310.838-6744 CELL 310.386-2752 E-MAIL:

PIETERSEV100@GMAIL.COM

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**Mulberry:** White, red and black, all <300: Black Persian, Collier, Downing, Illinois Everbearing, Kaester, Patrish, Riviera, Russian, Shangri-La, Tehama, Wellington;

**Nectarine:** Desert Delight (100-200); Panamint (150-250); Snow Queen (200-300); Babcock (250-300); C.O. Smith (low); Arctic Star (<300); Pioneer (300-400); Double Delight (<400); Fantasia, Lord Napier (low-mod); White Tiger (low-mod, 300-400); Arctic Glow, Sunlite (400-500);

**Necta-Plum:** Spice Zee (200-300);

**Peach:** Australian Saucer (0-100); Tropic Snow White Peach; Eagle Beak, Lukens Honey, Peacot, Ventura, C.O. Smith (low); Eva's Pride, Flordaprince (100-200); Tropic Snow (200); Mid-Pride, Babcock, Saturn (250); Champagne, Pallas (low-mod); August Pride, Donut (=Saucer, Peento) (<300); Red Baron (200-300); Santa Barbara (300); Earlitreat, Stark Saturn (400); Flordaking, LA Festival, La Peche (450);

**Pear, European:** <300: Beurre Superfin, Baldwin, Carnes, Florida Home, Fan Stil, Garber, Hengsan, Hood, Kieffer, Orient, Pineapple, Seleta, Spadona;

**Pecan:** All need 400-500;

**Persimmon:** All need 100;

**Pistachio:** None; all need 1000;

**Plum, European:** Damson;

**Plum, Japanese:** Autumn Rosa, Beauty, Burgundy, Catalina, Inca, Methley, Santa Rosa; (150-300);

**Pluot, Plumcot:** Flavor Grenade (200-300); Emerald Drop, Flavor King, Splash (<400);

**Pomegranate:** All need 300-400;

**Quince:** All need 300-400;

**Walnut:** Placentia (300), Pedro (400);

## **EVERGREEN FRUIT TREES**

Almost all evergreens will grow and fruit here; it is a little cool for some tropicals, and some trees need more heat than other ones for good quality fruit, but chill hours are not a factor.

**Avocado:** Bacon, Fuerte, Hass, Mexicola Grande, Pinkerton, Reed, Zutano, Gwen, Littlecado;

**Acerola; Babaco;**

**Banana;** Dwarf Cavendish, Dwarf Brazilian, Enana gigante, Goldfinger, Icecream, Apple, Williams;

**Capolin Cherry; Carambola; Cherimoya;**

**Citrus:** Peeling orange: Washington Navel, Cara Cara Pink Navel, Summer Navel, Trovita;

Juice orange: Valencia, Moro Blood, Sanguinelli Blood, Tarocco Blood;

Mandarin (Tangerine): Algerian, Dancy, Encore, Honey, Kinnow, Kishu, Page, Pixie, Satsuma;

Tangelo: Minneola;

Grapefruit: Rio Red, Mellow Gold, Oro Blanco;

Pummelo: Chandler Giant, Reinking Huge, Sarawak, Cocktail Grapefruit;

Lemon: Eureka, Improved Meyer, Pink Lemonade, Pomona Sweet, Ponderosa;

Lime: Bearss (=Tahitian), Mexican Key, Sweet Lime (=Palestine);

Kumquat: Meiwa, Nagami;

Other citrus: Calamondin, Etrog Citron, Fingered Citron, Kafir Lime, Eustis Limequat;

**Feijoa; Guava; Jaboticaba; Jackfruit; Kiwi; Loquat; Lychee; Macadamia; Malabar Chestnut; Mango; Olive; Papaya; Passion Fruit; Pineapple; Rose apple; Sapodilla; Surinam Cherry;**

See also the Dave Wilson and Bay Laurel Nurseries Low Chill publications on line.