

## Some Major Southwest Florida Fruits

Fruit	Fruiting seasons	Cold tolerance	Best varieties	Comments
avocado	depends on variety	depends on variety	there are many fine Florida varieties, but Hass does poorly in Florida	very flood-sensitive, plant on high ground or mound, be sure to get a good variety well-adapted to FL
banana	all except winter	west of I-75	there are many varieties, often mismarked in nurseries – best source is Sulcata Grove in Sarasota	not a true tree; fun to grow, might freeze to ground but can grow back; vigorous, long-lived, need some space
blueberries	spring	anywhere in FL	must be a FL variety	shrub, needs very acid soil (pine bark, peat moss), perhaps best as a container plant in a lanai cage
canistel	summer-fall	west of I-75	Trompo, Fairchild #2, Ross	excellent fruit, attractive tree, somewhat cold-sensitive
carambola	summer-fall	west of I-75	Kary, Fwang Tung, Lara, others	“starfruit”, easy to grow and astoundingly productive, can produce well in part shade, get a good variety
fig	summer-fall	anywhere in FL	many varieties	very sensitive to nematodes, consider container growing
guava	summer-fall	halfway to I-75	many varieties	fruit is very subject to worms, may need to bag fruit, flood-tolerant, hardy tree, old Florida favorite
jaboticaba	warm weather	west of I-75, or more	the variety Red is excellent and relatively fast to fruit, Sabara is productive with fine fruit	flood and cold-tolerant, small tree, fruits on trunk, slow to start fruiting, but worth the wait, keep soil moist
jackfruit	summer-fall	close to coast	many varieties, also seedlings are generally good and fruit in a few years	an acquired taste beloved in Asia, very cold-sensitive, consider growing seedlings for freeze growback
jujube	winter	anywhere in FL	Giant Thai	surprisingly tasty fruit, extremely productive and vigorous tree requiring aggressive pruning, has thorns
longan	August-September	west of I-75	Biew Kiew, Kohala	easy to grow, very productive, excellent underutilized fruit
loquat	Early winter	anywhere in FL	Bradenton, Christmas, others	excellent, easy-to-grow fruit, beautiful landscape tree
lychee	June-July	west of I-75	Mauritius and Brewster are the most reliable fruiters	Attractive tree, excellent fruit but fails to produce in some years, and now disease-prone; <u>not recommended</u> if space is limited
macadamia	summer-fall	west of I-75	several popular varieties	the only major nut that grows well in our region, but squirrels are a <i>major</i> problem so <u>not recommended</u>
mango	April – October	west of I-75	many excellent varieties--- Fairchild and Maha Chanok have excellent combination of features	one of the world’s best fruits, select varieties carefully for your needs, provide trace elements but avoid nitrogen on mature trees
mulberry	March-April	anywhere in FL	Tice, many others	very productive and easy to grow, short season, large, extremely vigorous tree, fruit stains concrete, don’t bother with the “dwarf everbearing” variety
papaya	warm weather	west of I-75	Red Lady, others	not a true tree, can be short-lived and disease-prone, discard males and females, keep hermaphrodites
peach	March-April	anywhere in FL	must be a Florida variety	vigorous grower, special pruning required, short-lived
persimmon	fall	anywhere in FL	Tanenashi, Saijo, others	delicious, underutilized fruit, astringent varieties probably a better choice, often potbound in nurseries
plum	March-April	anywhere in FL	Scarlet Beauty	vigorous grower, good fruit, special pruning required

sapodilla	most of year	west of I-75, perhaps east	Alano, Silas Wood, Tikal, Makok, and some newer varieties	attractive tree, very easy to grow and productive, underutilized, delicious fruit, “pears with brown sugar” easy to grow, some folks love it but fruit is too sweet for me underutilized fruit – at its best it's like a pear with hints of vanilla, not flood-tolerant, get a good variety, be sure you like the fruit before choosing to grow it
sugar apple	summer-fall	halfway to I-75		
white sapote	summer-fall	anywhere in FL	Redland, others; may benefit from cross-pollination with two varieties	

## Some Minor Southwest Florida Fruits

Fruit	Common Name	Cold tolerance	Best varieties	Comments
ambarella	various	west of I-75		easy to grow, but fruit is full of objectionable fiber, <u>not recommended</u>
atemoya		west of I-75	Gefner, Dream	somewhat uncommon fruit, many aficionados love it “chocolate persimmon”, not very cold-tolerant, fruit is very delicious when whipped with a little coconut milk or coffee creamer
black sapote		halfway to I-75	variety doesn't seem to matter much	productive, small tree, attractive landscape specimen, very short shelf life, fun novelty fruit
Bunchosia	Peanut Butter Fruit	west of I-75	does well from seed	tasty cherrylike fruit, small tree, upright growth habit, likes a lot of water
grumichama		west of I-75		hybrid of lime and kumquat, small fruit tastes like lime, very small tree, fruits during most of the year, does not seem to be very subject to citrus diseases, <u>a fine choice</u>
limequat		west of I-75		attractive shrub/small tree, fruit is tart and mostly seed, a grafted dark Surinam cherry is a far better choice if you can find one
Malpighia	Barbados cherry	west of I-75		very fast growing tree, wants to be large, tasty underrated fruit
mombin	Hog Plum	west of I-75		extremely fast-growing tree, weak wood, tasty small fruits without noticeable seeds, very nice novelty fruit, cold-sensitive
Muntingia	Strawberry Tree	west of I-75	can grow from seed	not well-adapted to FL humidity, best-growing variety is the Vietnamese but fruit is not very good, effort is ongoing to find good-tasting, adapted varieties, but so far <u>not recommended</u>
pomegranate		anywhere in FL	Azadi might be best current choice, see comments	red varieties have an objectionable resinous flavor but dark varieties are excellent when fully ripe; shrub or small tree, easy to grow, attractive, pollinators love them
Surinam cherry	Surinam cherry	anywhere in our area	get a grafted “dark” variety, not grown from seed	