

Philip Aubrey on Successful Fruit Growing

Grow Your Own Five a Day

WHY GROW YOUR OWN FRUIT

LIMITED SPACE
REWARDING
FRESH
ORGANIC?

WHERE TO GROW FRUIT

OPEN GROUND v POTS
FULL SUN
WELL DRAINED

CULTIVATION

PREPARATION - WEED FREE, ORGANIC MATTER, FERTILIZER
PLANTING - COMMON TO ALL (STRAWS TO TREES)
- BARE ROOT v POT GROWN
- DEPTH
- FIRM
- STAKED
- RABBIT PROTECTION

ANNUAL ROUTINE - FEED EARLY
- MULCH
- WEED CONTROL
- WATER

PEST AND DISEASE CONTROL - BIRD DAMAGE
- PESTS, ORGANIC v CHEMICALS
- DISEASES

SELECTION

TOP FRUIT (TREE FRUIT) - APPLES, PEARS, PLUMS AND PEACH TREES
- GRAFTED ONTO A ROOTSTOCK
(M9 AND M26 FOR APPLES FOR SMALLER GARDENS)
- POLLINATORS
- PRUNING, WHY & TREE SHAPES
BUSH FRUIT - GOOSEBERRIES, CURRANTS, BLUEBERRIES
- PRUNING
CANE FRUIT - RASPBERRIES, BLACKBERRIES, HYBRID BERRIES
- TRAINING / PRUNING

CULTIVARS

There are many cultivars to choose from which have been bred over hundreds of years. Many old varieties are still available because of their quality and reliability but modern breeding has given us longer seasons, disease resistance, improved flavour and smaller trees.

Apples:

- Dessert**
- **Cox's Orange Pippin**, probably the best known apple but difficult to grow.
 - **Discovery**, reliable early cultivar but does not store.
 - **James Grieve**, great flavour and easy to grow.
 - **Egremont Russet**, distinctive nutty flavour and keeps well.
 - **Braeburn**, newer cultivar which is easy to grow. Crisp and juicy. Oct - Feb.
- Culinary**
- **Bramley's Seedling**, the best cooker but requires two pollinators.

Pears:

- **Conference**, partially self fertile, juicy but firm. Stores quite well.
- **Williams Bon Chretien**, Great flavour but does not store.
- **Doyenne du Comice**, Outstanding flavour but more difficult to grow.
- **Concorde**, a new cultivar (1994). Good flavour and keeping quality.

Plums:

- **Victoria**, still the best plum for eating straight from the tree.
- **Pershire Yellow Egg**, a great local cultivar for cooking and preserves.
- **Marjorie's Seedling**, purple skin with sweet flesh for eating or cooking.
- **Herman and Stella** on **Pixy** rootstock are great where space is limited.

Damsons:

- **Merryweather**, the classic damson.
- **Shropshire** on **Pixy**, smaller and more manageable.

Peach:

- **Peregrine**, the best traditional peach with fine skin and juicy flesh
- **Terrace Diamond** and **Garden Lady** are both dwarf types.

Apricot:

- **Aprigold**, a new dwarf apricot suitable for pot culture.

Nectarine:

- **Terrace Ruby**, a dwarf plant which can be pot grown.

Cherry:

- **Stella** on the dwarfing rootstock **Gisela 5** or semi-dwarfing **Colt**, a self fertile cherry with great flavour.
- **Morello** on **Colt**, the best acidic cherry for tarts on a tree of manageable size.

- Fig:**
- **Brown Turkey**, the best selling and most reliable fig.
 - **Petite Nigra**, for a smaller plant that fruits well.
- Walnut:**
- **Buccaneer**, you will need plenty of space and a lot of patience!
- Raspberries:**
- **Tulameen & Glen Ample**, for a succession of summer berries.
 - **Autumn Bliss**, fruits right through to November.
 - **Ruby Beauty**, a new dwarf cultivar suitable for tub culture.
- Blackberries:**
- **Himalaya Giant**, produces giant fruits but has vicious thorns.
 - **Oregon Thornless**, crops well and is much less painful.
- Hybrid berries:**
- **Loganberry** is my favourite.
- Grapes:**
- **Black Hamburg**, the most popular black grape.
 - **Dornfelder**, a juicy red grape for indoor or outdoor cultivation.
 - **Phoenix**, a newer white grape. Juicy & disease resistant.
- Blackcurrants:**
- **Baldwin**, a traditional variety but superseded by
 - **Ben Connan**, one of the newer cultivars to replace Baldwin.
- Redcurrants:**
- **Laxton's No.1**, the standard cultivar for many years.
 - **Jonkheer van Tets**, a new Dutch cultivar but the bush is large.
- White currants:**
- **White Versailles**, still the best white cultivar.
- Gooseberries:**
- **Whinham's Industry**, upright growth and red fruits.
 - **Hinnomaki Green**, newer cultivar and mildew resistant.
- Blueberries:**
- **Bluecrop**, the most popular cultivar.
 - **Patriot**, the bush is a little smaller than Bluecrop.
- Strawberries:**
- **Hapil**, an improvement on the traditional Cambridge Favourite.
 - **Albion**, perpetual fruiting varieties which crops till October.
- Rhubarb:**
- **Victoria**
 - **Timperley Early**
- Melons:**
- From seed each year. Need protection. **Galia** is a reliable F1 hybrid.

For further information, especially regarding pruning and training, refer to a copy of 'The Fruit Expert'