

Seminar and sale to feature variety of fruit trees

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service — Galveston County Office



PHOTO BY Dr. William M. Johnson



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Our subtropical climate allows gardeners to grow a remarkably wide selection of plants. Even so, many people are surprised to learn the Upper Gulf Coast has a thriving home citrus industry. The Galveston County Citrus Show last December was a testament to that increasing occurrence as area citrus growers submitted a record 146 entries for viewing.

Indeed, producing your own homegrown citrus does not require unique skills or special growing conditions. Not only can you pluck fresh and tasty citrus from your own backyard tree, you can impress your neighbors or your friends who might be visiting from up North.

Whether you're just thinking about growing your own citrus or you're an experienced

home grower, make a notation on your gardening calendar to attend the annual Master Gardener Fruit Tree Seminar and Sale from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Before the sale starts, Heidi Sheesley, of TreeSearch Farms, will provide a fruit and citrus varieties seminar from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m., highlighting the star varieties.

If your palate and growing interests tend toward other types of fruit trees, you likely will be surprised at the range of fruit trees that will be available.

For gardeners with more traditional tastes, there will be an assortment of apples, Asian and European pears, plums, peaches, persimmons, figs, grapes, blackberries and pecans. Exceptional among the selections this year are the peaches and apples. There

will be 2-N-1 and 3-N-1 low chill apples whereas multiple varieties are grafted onto a single trunk. Similarly, there will be 3-N-1 and 4-N-1 low-chill peaches.

Other gardeners will be delighted by some very different, hard-to-find-anywhere fruits that can do well in our yards. These include avocado, mango, dragon fruit and papaya.

Jujubes also are called "Asian dates" because they taste somewhat like a date when eaten as dried fruit, and they grow very well in Galveston County.

How worthwhile is it to dedicate a portion of your landscape to a few fruit trees? If you appreciate the fact that there is no substitute for a mouthwatering, tree-ripened

Dr. William Johnson is a horticulturist with the Galveston County Office of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service. Visit his website at <http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/galveston>.

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fruit, then you already have provided the best answer to the question. And if you plan to start your home mini-orchard, February is an excellent time to transplant fruit trees.

The Fruit Tree Seminar and Sale is sponsored by the Galveston County Master Gardener volunteers. Of course, dozens of Master Gardeners will be on hand to help you select your fruit trees and answer questions about planting, pruning, fertilizing and caring for your fruit trees.

Proceeds from the sale of the plants are used to develop and maintain our Horticulture Research and Demonstration Gardens located at the Galveston County Extension Office and in Car-bide Park.

For information, visit the Galveston County Extension Office, 5115 state Highway 3, in Dickinson, give us a call at 281-534-3413, Ext. 6, or visit our website address provided below.

