

Growing Temperate Tree Fruit and Nut Crops in the Home Garden and Landscape

Paul M. Vossen¹ and Deborah Silver²

¹Tree Fruits and Nuts Farm Advisor

Sonoma and Marin Counties

University of California Cooperative Extension

²Technical Editor and Writer (free-lance)

Varieties for Planting in the Home Garden

Where you live (your "climate zone") will determine which varieties of temperate tree fruit and nut crops will perform best in your home garden, when fruits and nuts are harvested, and which pest and disease problems are more common. This table describes *selected* varieties that are suitable for home gardeners in California. The number of varieties could easily be doubled or tripled if all heirloom varieties and newer varieties available at nurseries or through mail order were included.

Certain varieties are superb eaten fresh. Other varieties tend to be used more often for cooking, canning, and freezing. Experts do not always agree about which varieties are best suited for various uses because individual tastes differ. Thus, the comments in the table regarding these issues are offered as points of interest only, not as official advice endorsed by the UC.

Chestnut (*Castanea sp.*)

Little research has been done on the chestnut in California. Thus, we know little about its specific adaptability or productive capacity. Chestnuts are monoecious (separate female and male flowers are borne on one plant – like walnuts) and some cultivars are self-unfruitful; thus, two different varieties should be grown for cross-pollination to produce consistent crops. Trees reach a height of 80 ft and spread to 60 ft under ideal conditions. Chestnuts are excellent fruitful, shade trees if grown in very well drained soil. Chestnuts are almost pest free in California. Seedling is the only known rootstock. Edible chestnuts should not be confused with the poisonous Horse Chestnut (*Aesculus californica*). Fresh chestnuts contain about 50% moisture. Unlike other nuts, chestnuts have low oil content (8%).

Standard Varieties

- **Colossal** - The industry standard. Large fruited. Excellent quality. Best choice. Parentage unknown.
- **Dunstan** - A cross of American and Chinese varieties. Medium - small nuts. Sweet and blight resistant. Late flowering.
- **Eurobella** - Large nut. Good pollenizer for Colossal.
- **Seedling** - Not a "named" variety. Each tree is genetically different. Unknown fruit quality. Unknown tree shape and fruit size.
- **Silverleaf** - Medium sized nut. Good pollenizer for Colossal, but nutshell splits are a problem.

Harvest Period

Standard Varieties	San Joaquin Valley	Sacramento Valley	Central Coast	North Coast	Sierra Nevada Foothills	Southern California
Colossal	Early Oct.	Early Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Mid Oct.	Early Oct.
Dunstan	Early Oct.	Early Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Mid Oct.	Early Oct.
Eurobella	Early Oct.	Early Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Mid Oct.	Early Oct.
Seedling	Early Oct.	Early Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Mid Oct.	Early Oct.
Silverleaf	Early Oct.	Early Oct.	Late Oct.	Late Oct.	Mid Oct.	Early Oct.

Other Varieties For Trial

Marrone di Maradi, Castel del Rio, Montesol, Fowler