

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

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## **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.

**Pistachio**  
(*Pistacia vera*)

Pistachio trees require long, hot, dry summers and mild winters. April frosts kill flowers, and cool summers do not promote good kernel development. Adequate winter chilling and good weather (pistachio is wind-pollinated) are required. Pistachio trees are dioecious (male and female trees); thus, male trees must be planted near female trees to get a good crop set. Trees become large and should be planted about 20 ft apart. The warmest regions in the state are adapted for pistachio production in the backyard, but pistachios are a poor choice for coastal California.

**Rootstocks**

- **P. atlantica** - Resistant to many nematodes, but susceptible to cold (below 15-20°F) and *Verticillium* wilt.
- **P. terebinthus** - The best rootstock. Most tolerant of cold. Resistant to nematodes. Susceptible to *Verticillium*.
- **P. integerrima** - Resistant to *Verticillium*. Very susceptible to cold damage.

**Standard Varieties**

- **Joley** - Female. Smaller nuts. Fewer blanks. More splits.
- **Kerman** - Female. Best nut-producing variety.
- **Peters** - Male. Good for pollination.
- **Sfax** - Smaller, good quality nuts.

**Harvest Period**

<b>Standard Varieties</b>	<b>San Joaquin Valley</b>	<b>Sacramento Valley</b>	<b>Central Coast</b>	<b>North Coast</b>	<b>Sierra Nevada Foothills</b>	<b>Southern California</b>
Joley	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Kerman	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Peters	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.
Sfax	October	Late Oct.	NA	NA	Late Oct.	Late Oct.

NA = Not Applicable due to chilling requirements