

Stone Fruit Trees

Cherries

Interval From Planting to Fruiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 to 5 years
Season of Ripening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June through July
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH: 5.5 to 7.5
Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between trees: 20 ft • Between rows: 20 ft
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees are usually picked only once per season, except Rainier cherry trees, which are picked at least three times in a season. • Cherries that are overripe, immature, or too small are used for processing or discarded.
Postharvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweet cherries can be held for 2 to 3 weeks at 30°F to 31°F and 90% to 95% relative humidity. • Sour cherries can be held for 3 to 7 days at 32°F and 90% to 95% relative humidity.
Production Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sweet and sour varieties both have relatively high chilling requirements that prevent production in warmer climates. • Excessive rain and high humidity can contribute to fungal disease, rot, and cause some varieties of fruit to crack.
Pests and Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests: plum curculios, fruit flies, birds • Diseases: brown rot, crown gall, cherry leaf spot, black knot
Structures and Equipment	
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees are usually pruned using the central leader or open center pruning method. • The best time to prune is in late winter though early spring.

Fruit and Vegetable Production

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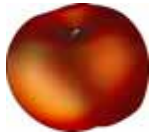
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Stone Fruit Trees

Peaches

Interval From Planting to Fruiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 to 3 years
Season of Ripening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early July to mid September
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH: 6.0 to 6.5 • Well-drained soil
Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between trees: 20 ft • Between rows: 20 ft
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees are usually picked 3 or 4 times at intervals of 2 or 3 days. • Peaches are harvested when the background color turns from green to yellow and the fruit are mature but firm.
Postharvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be stored up to 2 weeks at 31°F to 32°F and 90% to 95% relative humidity
Production Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most peach varieties overbear fruit. Natural or hand thinning, depending on the variety, is necessary to prevent small peaches and broken branches.
Pests and Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests: borers, oriental fruit moths, plum curculios, tarnished plant bugs, stink bugs • Diseases: bacterial leaf spot, brown rot, peach leaf curl, canker
Structures and Equipment	
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peach cultivars are either freestone or semifreestone. • Peach trees can be readily pruned into an open vase form.

Fruit and Vegetable Production

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Stone Fruit Trees

Plums

Interval From Planting to Fruiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 to 5 years
Season of Ripening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • August through September
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pH: 5.5 to 6.5 • Well-drained soil
Spacing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between trees: 20 ft • Between rows: 20 ft
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plums harvested for fresh market sale should have good color and be firm but not hard. • Plums harvested for drying can be more mature than fresh market plums.
Postharvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be stored 2 to 4 weeks at 31°F to 32°F and 90% to 95% relative humidity • Hydrocool for best storage life
Production Concerns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertilize trees annually in early spring. • Thinning is necessary for some varieties to ensure that the remaining fruit reaches the proper size.
Pests and Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pests: European red mites, plum curculios • Diseases: black knot, leaf spot, brown rot
Structures and Equipment	
Other Considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be pruned with a modified central leader or open center system

Fruit and Vegetable Production

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