

# **Pome Fruit Trees**

# **Apples**

Interval From Planting to Fruiting	• 2 to 6 years				
Season of Ripening	July through October				
Soil	pH: 6.0 to 6.5 Well-drained, light-textured soil				
Spacing	Depends on scion and rootstock				
Harvest	<ul> <li>Fruit softens as it matures. Harvest apples based on intended length of storage.</li> <li>In Missouri, most apples are harvested from mid September through October.</li> </ul>				
Postharvest	• Can be stored several months at 32°F and 80% to 90% relative humidity, depending on variety				
Production Concerns	Spring frosts and winter freezes are the main limiting factors.				
Pests and Diseases	<ul> <li>Pests: European red mites, codling moths, San Jose scale, plum curculios</li> <li>Diseases: cedar apple rust, fire blight, powdery mildew, scab</li> </ul>				
Structures and Equipment	• Stakes				
Other Considerations	Liberty, Red Delicious, and Golden Delicious are varieties that can be grown with success in Missouri.				

### **Fruit and Vegetable Production**

Avery, J., P. Byers, M. Kaps, L. Kovacs, and M. Odneal. *Growing Fruit for Home Use.* State Fruit Experiment Station. Missouri State University-Mountain Grove. <a href="http://mtngrv.missouristate.edu/Publications/GFFHUweb.pdf">http://mtngrv.missouristate.edu/Publications/GFFHUweb.pdf</a> (accessed January 30, 2006).

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Warmund, M. R. *Home Fruit Production: Apples.* University of Missouri Extension. <a href="http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06021.htm">http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/agguides/hort/g06021.htm</a> (accessed December 17, 2005).

Willenberg, B., and K. Hughes. *Home Storage of Fruits and Vegetables in Root Cellars.* University of Missouri Extension.

http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/miscpubs/mp0562.htm (accessed April 24, 2006).



## **Pome Fruit Trees**

### **Pears**

Interval From Planting to Fruiting	• 5 to 8 years			
Season of Ripening	Mid July through mid October			
Soil	pH: 6.0 to 6.5			
Spacing	Between trees: 20 ft Between rows: 26 ft			
Harvest	Pears should be firm and not fully ripe at harvest. Seeds turn from white to dark brown when the fruit reaches maturity.			
Postharvest	Pears can be stored for 2 to 4 months at 32°F and 90% to 95% relative humidity. Ripen pears at 60°F to 70°F before using or selling.			
Production Concerns	Warm, wet springs increase the likelihood of fire blight.			
Pests and Diseases	Pests: scale, stinkbugs, pear psylla Diseases: fire blight, bot canker, flyspeck			
Structures and Equipment				
Other Considerations	Trees are usually pruned using a central leader system. Pear trees are generally not pruned as much after the third year.			

#### **Fruit and Vegetable Production**

Avery, J., P. Byers, M. Kaps, L. Kovacs, and M. Odneal. *Growing Fruit for Home Use*. State Fruit Experiment Station. Missouri State University-Mountain Grove. <a href="http://mtngrv.missouristate.edu/Publications/GFFHUweb.pdf">http://mtngrv.missouristate.edu/Publications/GFFHUweb.pdf</a> (accessed January 30, 2006).

Kolbe, M. H. *Growing Pears in North Carolina*. North Carolina State University and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/consumer/agpubs/ag-80.pdf (accessed December 12, 2005).

Lerner, B. R., and M. N. Dana. *Storing Fruits and Vegetables at Home*. Purdue University Cooperative Extension Service. <a href="http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-125.pdf">http://www.hort.purdue.edu/ext/HO-125.pdf</a> (accessed April 25, 2006).

Rieger, M. "Pears." Mark Rieger's Fruit Crop Home Page. University of Georgia Department of Horticulture. <a href="http://www.uga.edu/fruit/pear.htm#general culture">http://www.uga.edu/fruit/pear.htm#general culture</a> (accessed April 25, 2006).

Schroeder, C. B., E. D. Seagle, L. M. Felton, J. M. Ruter, W. T. Kelley, and G. Krewer. *Introduction to Horticulture*. 4th ed. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Pearson Education, Inc., 2004.

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http://muextension.missouri.edu/explore/miscpubs/mp0562.htm (accessed April 24, 2006).

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