



A Home Orchard in a Small Space

We can help you plan, plant and successfully harvest your own home-grown fruit year-round!

Fruit trees are easy to grow in New Zealand no matter where you live, even if your garden is on the small size. There are dwarf forms and varieties of most fruits which don't take a lot of space and when many can be grown in containers or espaliered on a fence, anything is possible.

When planning your orchard it's important to consider pollination, when fruit ripens and the mature size of your trees. It is also helpful to know that some fruits may only be available for purchase at certain times of the year.

ican Harvest is a selection of fruit trees that are ideal for the home gardener. You can be assured that they will perform exceptionally well as these fruit trees have been hand-picked by experts. The varieties have been selected for their excellent taste, reliable fruiting ability, ease to grow and suitability for the smaller garden. In addition they can be successfully grown in pots.

Yes, you can have fruit on your deck and patio, and they make great gifts!



Find more ican products and advice at your local ican retailer – see page 8.

Choosing which fruit and varieties

Consider these factors when choosing what fruit and varieties to grow.

1 What fruit do you like?

Everyone has favourite fruit. Apples, pears, peaches, plums and nectarines are regular favourites. Some citrus are essential such as lemons and easy peel mandarins. Or you might prefer berry fruits and easy to grow feijoas. Hence it often comes down to what to leave out!

2 How much space do you have?

In very small gardens, space may be limited to a lemon, perhaps a mandarin and a feijoa; but when dwarf trees can be trained as espaliers, columns, or grown in pots, you can fit more in. Mix fruit trees and bushes through your garden, where they may provide shade, screening, and spring and autumn colour.

3 What grows best in your region?

Fruit trees will grow in most regions, although because of severe frosts, some areas will not be suitable for some citrus, feijoas and other subtropical fruits. Fruits that require low winter temperatures to set fruit, may not be suitable for warm regions but new varieties are available that will set fruit without winter chilling. For success, your site should be sunny and sheltered from strong wind.



Lemon tree

4 When does it ripen?

The popular summer fruits such as apples, plums, peaches and nectarines, all fruit around the same time which means you can have barrow loads in just a few weeks. However with careful planning and selection from the extensive range of fruit available to home gardeners, it is possible to pick a steady supply of fresh fruit from your garden for 12 months of the year.



Blueberries

5 Consider the work involved

Some fruits require very little work (eg. feijoas and citrus), while others require time for pruning, spraying or netting, and sometimes all three.

In summary, each of these factors will carry more or less emphasis for you. You might reach a compromise based on – fruit you like that will grow well in your region, that provides fruit to pick for most or all of the year, that requires moderate to minimum levels maintenance.

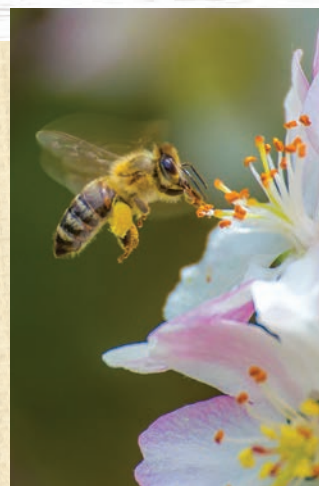
Ask our team in store for advice on the best fruits to grow in your garden.

Rootstocks & 'dwarfing'

Some fruit tree varieties are naturally dwarf, whilst other fruit trees can be grafted onto a 'dwarfing rootstock' which will reduce the size of the tree from its usual height. Container growing also restricts the size of a tree.

Pollination

Pollination is essential to ensure fruit set and is normally performed by bees and insects and in some fruits, by birds and wind. Most fruit trees will set fruit freely, but some require a companion tree of the same type to set fruit or enhance the crop. For a small garden, you may be able to purchase double or triple grafted fruit trees which have different pollinating and fruiting varieties on the one trunk.



How to grow fruit in your garden

The site

For success, your fruit trees will grow best in a warm sunny position with shelter from strong winds.

The soil

Fruit trees grow best in a free draining soil enriched with organic matter (compost). If your soil is heavy with clay, build up the planting area 15 cm or more with topsoil and compost to improve the drainage.

Soil preparation

Before planting your fruit trees, prepare the soil by working-in generous quantities of compost, 3-4 handfuls of lime (or a lime dolomite mix), and 3-6 tablespoons, depending on the plant size, of **ican Slow Food**.

Planting

Before you plant, soak the plant's root ball in a bucket of water so it is fully saturated. Dig a hole as deep as the root ball and wide enough to allow the roots to spread out evenly. For bareroot trees, place the roots on a low mound in the bottom of the hole to reduce air pockets. Supporting stakes are recommended for trees and should be positioned now to prevent root injury.

Backfill the hole with the prepared soil. Firm the soil in well until it is filled to the same level as before. Make sure the graft union on grafted trees, is well above the soil level. Use a soft tie to secure the tree to the stake(s). Finally, water well to settle the soil in around the roots.

Feeding

The fertiliser applied at planting time will be sufficient for the first 12 months. After the first year, feed your fruit trees with **ican Fruit Food** three times a year – September, December and March.

Watering

Your fruit trees will need to be watered during dry periods especially in their first few years. A weeper soak hose connected to a timer is an easy alternative to hand watering.



We Recommend

ican Fruit Food is specially formulated to feed all fruiting plants growing in the ground, providing essential nutrients for up to three months. Fruit Food will start feeding within a few days. Apply every 6 weeks during the growing season to maximise plant health and fruit production.



Harvesting Calendar

Fresh fruit for every month of the year



FRUIT	WE RECOMMEND	GROWS IN CONTAINERS
SMALL BERRIES		
Strawberry	Numerous	✓
Boysenberry	Brulee	✓
Blueberry*	Early	O'Neal / Petite Blue
	Early to mid	Tasty Blue* / Blue Magic* / Misty
	Mid to late	Centurion / Muffin / Powder Blue
Currant	Black - Magnus, Sugarloaf (new) / red / white	✓
Gooseberry	Farmer's Glory / Invicta / Monarch	✓
Raspberry	Early to mid	Aspiring / Mini Me / Waiua
	Late	Aspiring / Heritage
Blackberry	Black Satin / Karaka Black	✓
STONE FRUIT		
Apricot**	Early	Solar Perfection
	Mid	Aprigold (dwarf)
	Late	Trevatt
Cherry*	Early	Tangshe
	Mid to late	Compact Stella (dwarf) / Lapins
Nectarine	Early to mid	Kay Pearl / Silver King / Snow Queen
	Mid to late	Theo Ching / Fantasia / Ruby Diamond
Peacherine	Healy's Peacherine	
Peach	Early	Pixzee (dwarf) / Golden Tatura
	Mid	Rich Lady / Blackboy / White Princess
	Late	Golden Queen / Sweet Perfection
Plum*	Early	Duff's Early Jewel / Wilsons Early
	Mid	Billington / Black Doris / Hawera / Teak Gold
	Late	Luisa / Hunterston / Omega
PIP FRUIT		
Apple*	Early	Cox's Orange / Croquella (dwarf) / Sweetie
	Mid	Splendour / Roy's Pearl / Pinkie
	Late	Scarlet & Crimson Spire / Topaz / Granny Smith
Nashi pear**	Reddy Robin / Nijiseiki	
Pear*	Early to mid	Williams Bon Chretien / Crispie (pear-nashi hybrid) / Conference
	Mid to late	Beurre Bosc / Doyenne du Comice / Packham's Triumph
OTHER FRUIT		
Avocado**	Hass	
	Reed	
	Bacon	
	Feurte	
Passionfruit	Black	✓
Grape	Early to mid	Schuyler / Niagara
	Mid to late	White Diamond / Albany Surprise
Fig**	Early	Ventura
	Mid	Mrs Williams / Brown Turkey
	Late	Brunswick / Preston Prolific / French Sugar
Feijoa*	Early to mid	Sherbet / Takaka / Unique / Pounamu
	Mid	Wiki Tu / Den's Choice / Kakapo
	Mid to late	Opal Star / Triumph / Waingaro
Persimmon	Fuyu	
Tamarillo	Ted's Red / Hardy Harry	✓
CITRUS		
Lemon	Meyer / Yen Ben	
	Genoa / Villa Franca	✓
	Lemonade	
Mandarin	Encore	
	Satsuma - Miho / Miyagawa / Kawano / Silverhill	✓
	Clementine / Afourer	
Orange	Valencia - Lue Gim Gong / Harwood Late	
	Navel - Navellina / Washington Navel / Fukumoto	✓
	Blood orange	
Tangelo	Seminole	✓
Grapefruit	Golden Special / Cutler's Red	✓
	Wheeny	✓
Lime	Tahitian - Bearss	✓

Notes *pollinating plant required. Pipfruit require a pollinating plant but often a neighbourhood tree does the trick
 **mostly self-fertile but will produce more fruit if planted with another variety nearby



Citrus tree



Feijoa tree



Apple Croquella

How to grow fruit in containers

You can grow most fruits successfully in containers, providing a few simple but important rules are followed.

Growing in containers will assist in maintaining a small size and if you want to grow large fruit trees such as pip and stone fruit select a dwarf or compact variety for success. Fruit trees and bushes grown in pots will need watering and feeding more regularly than those planted in the ground. Keep your fruit in pots well-watered and fed, and you'll soon be harvesting your own delicious crops.

We Recommend

ican Fruit Food for Pots & Planters is best to feed fruiting plants growing in containers. The nitrogen source works fast for a quick 'green-up' and keeps feeding for 3-4 months. The potassium will improve flowering and fruiting. Apply seasonally.

The pot

For success, choose pots of 42-60 cm diameter holding approximately 35-40 litres of potting mix. This size is suitable for most small growing fruits and will restrict the size of larger trees.

Potting mix

We recommend you use only the best. The potting mix for fruit trees needs to be free draining but also have good water holding and feeding capacity. Premium potting mixes contain a slow-release fertiliser that will last for 6 months, water storage granules and a soil wetting agent.

Feeding

Fruiting plants growing in containers will use all the nutrients in the potting mix in a few months. You can replenish the potting mix with **ican Slow Food** which will slowly release nutrients to the plant over the next few months.

Watering

In spring and autumn your fruit pots may require daily watering, and twice daily in summer. To give your fruit a boost when they are actively growing, water with liquid **ican Fast Food**. When potting mix becomes dry, it repels water and you may see water quickly runs out the bottom of the pot. Add a wetting agent such as **Saturaid** so that water soaks into the potting mix and is available to the plant.





Blackberries



Strawberries

Pruning and training for continuous fruiting

A few simple, well-placed cuts can improve fruiting and limit the size of your fruit trees, ensuring they stay compact enough for your garden.

Pruning creates the shape of a plant, removes dead and diseased wood, thins out growth for better airflow and disease control, and reinvigorates trees to produce new growth for fruiting.

To make best use of space a central leader shape or espalier is most popular. This makes pruning, picking, and spraying easier.

However, not all fruiting plants require an annual prune and some dwarf varieties have been bred to eliminate the need for it.

Before you start any pruning, identify on what growth the flowers and fruit form for each type of fruit and if pruning is required.

Ask our team in store for advice on your fruit trees' requirements.

1

Current season growth (new growth)



These are easiest to prune, because whether you prune hard or light they will still crop. Aim to maintain the desired size and shape of the tree, that is open enough for good air flow, and maintains and replaces fruiting wood that is vigorous and high producing.

2

One-year old wood (last year's growth)



Peaches and nectarines produce a lot of new wood each year, which is often much more than required. To maintain the size and shape of the tree and also regular crops, cut back and thin out much of the growth. In older trees, some branches may be removed totally and new ones established.

3

New growth from one-year old wood



In general, following harvest, remove stems that carried fruit and tie in new stems grown from the main plant to replace them. The new stems may also be shortened.

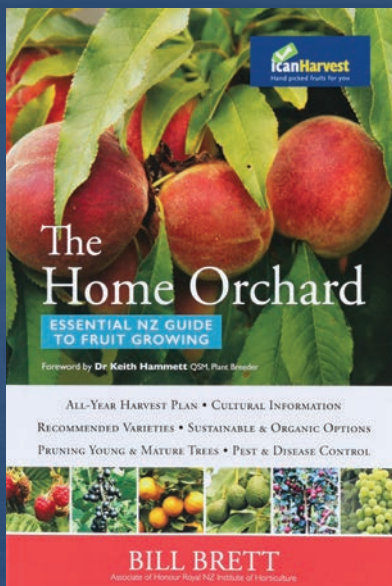
4

Spurs which last several years



It takes two to three years for spurs to form and fruit. These spurs continue to produce fruit each year. Old spurs may be removed which will rejuvenate new ones, or if the branch carrying the spurs is losing vigour, remove the whole branch to encourage new growth. It is normal for trees to produce new growth each year but when your trees have reached the desired size and shape, all unwanted growth can be removed.

The Home Orchard – Essential NZ Guide



All of the information required to achieve success with growing a home orchard can be found in this book. It is written as a guide for the enthusiast with space, as well as gardeners with limited space typical of today's small backyards. 140 illustrations and photographs enhance the science and evidenced based approach.

This book puts together all you need to know to grow fruit successfully – range, best varieties, soil preparation, important cultural methods, minimal spraying, how and when to prune, fertiliser and watering regimes. All varieties, products and practices are science proven and have been fully evaluated to ensure you get the best results and satisfaction, at the same time maintaining a strong focus on sustainability.

It recommends:

- A mix of fruits to provide a harvest every month of the year.
- The best varieties for yield, taste and disease resistance.
- Achievable and easily managed small trees for small spaces, including growing in pots.
- Sustainable and organic options.

The Home Orchard is a follow up to **Garden Pest & Disease Control** by Bill Brett, Associate of Honour Royal NZ Institute of Horticulture. Foreword by Dr Keith Hammett, Plant Breeder.

Purchase your copy at one of the ican stores listed below or online at gardenadvice.co.nz



ican Harvest Fruit and ican products are available at retailers in the Garden Independents Network, a group of innovative, independently owned garden centres across New Zealand.

Décor Gardenworld, Tauranga

Touchstone Garden Centre, Gisborne

Big Jim's Garden Centre, New Plymouth

Garden Edge, Hawera

Green Door Garden & Décor, Havelock North

Springvale Garden Centre, Wanganui

Harrisons Gardenworld, Feilding

Harrisons Gardenworld, Waikanae

Garden Barn, Masterton

California Home & Garden, Lower Hutt

Twigland Gardener's World, Wellington

Terra Viva Home & Garden, Christchurch

Lushingtons Garden Gift & Café, Ashburton

