



## **2016 FIGS, BERRIES, & GRAPES**

(subject to availability)

### **Blackberries**

**All blackberries are self-fruitful. Most blackberries fruit on floricanes or 2nd year growth with one crop in summer. For these, cut off fruiting canes each year once harvest is finished.**

#### **Arapaho**

Thornless. Disease- & pest-resistant blackberry with excellent, sweet flavor. Heavy producer of medium-sized, firm fruit over a 4 week period. The earliest thornless variety. Doesn't need a trellis due to its erect growth habit.

#### **Kiowa**

Thorny. World's largest blackberry; very disease-resistant; heavy producer of deliciously sweet berries. Longer harvest season than any other variety. Thorny, but worth it for its size & flavor.

#### **Natchez**

Thornless. Super productive, healthy, erect to semi-erect plant with very large, tasty berries. Ripens early. Designated a Texas Superstar by Texas A&M AgriLife Ext.

#### **Ouachita**

Thornless. Very productive. Medium to large, sweet, firm berries on thornless, upright canes. Hardy, disease-resistant and reliable. Harvest starts in mid-June and continues through July (mid-late season).

### **Blueberries, Rabbiteye**

**Spring-blooming bushes that require minimal maintenance & are virtually pest-free when grown in highly acidic (pH 4.5-5.5), moist, well-drained, organically-rich soil (use containers or raised beds here). Most need a pollenizer (another rabbiteye variety) for fruit to set. Choose 2-3 varieties with different ripening times to extend your harvest from May-July. Mulch using 2-3" of pine needles or ground pine bark mulch. Deep water the first 2 summers during dry periods. Space 4-5' for hedge effect or 6-10' to pick all around the bush. May be kept at 4-6' tall for easier picking. Remove flower buds the 1st year for best bush establishment.**

#### **Brightwell**

Partially self-fruitful. Vigorous, upright plant, which produces outstanding yields of medium to large-sized fruit. Ripens early June to early July.

#### **Climax**

Abundant crops of small to medium-sized berries that ripen over a short period of time from late May to early June.

### **Pink Lemonade**

Self-fruitful. 300 chill hrs. A hybrid of rabbiteye & southern highbush. Unique berries mature to a bright pink color in mid- to late season (July to August). Delicious, sweet flavor. Highly ornamental shrub with showy pink flowers in spring & colorful gold & orange fall foliage.

### **Powderblue**

An excellent quality berry that is very much like Tifblue but with an attractive powdery blush. Ripens from late June to late July.

### **Premier**

Medium to large, high-quality berries. Ripens late May to early June.

### **Tifblue**

Self-fruitful. Small to medium berries with excellent flavor when fully ripe. A beautiful plant with high productivity. Ripens late June to July.

## **Blueberries, Southern Highbush (plant 2 or more different varieties to get fruit)**

### **Emerald**

Self-fruitful; 250 chill hrs. Largest southern highbush berry; mild, sweet flavor; mid-season (about mid-Apr to mid-May); 5-6' tall, rounded, spreading shrub.

### **Misty**

Self-fruitful (but yields are best when planted with other varieties); 150 or so chill hrs. Large, spicy, sweet berries; 4-6' tall spreading, upright shrub with blue-green foliage that turns burgundy in fall; grows well on coast or inland; thrives in mild winter & hot summer climates. Ripens around June (mid-season)

### **Sunshine Blue**

Self-fruitful; 150 chill hrs. High yields of firm, flavorful, medium-sized berries; semi-dwarf bush to about 3' tall with beautiful fall color; hot-pink flowers that turn white in spring; mid- to late-season; tolerates higher pH soils better than many others.

## **Figs**

**One of the easiest fruits to grow. Figs can thrive in fairly heavy clay soil as well as in loose, sandy loams & slightly acid soil to very slightly neutral. Keep free of weed competition & give constant moisture. Deep water every 10 days when summers are dry. Once growth has begun, an early spring application of a complete fertilizer may be made or mulch with compost. High nitrogen applications should be avoided as excess nitrogen can cause figs to split and become watery tasting and make the tree more susceptible to winter damage. Prune each year in Jan/Feb to control size.**

### **Alma**

An old favorite released by the TX Ag Experiment Stn in 1974. High quality fruit ripens to yellow or bronze & is excellent fresh, dried, or preserved. Amber to pink flesh has a rich, sweet flavor. Compact, smaller than average tree is very productive & comes into production at a young age. Closed-eye. Late season.

### **Brown Turkey**

Medium to large, bell-shaped fruits are purplish-brown with reddish-amber flesh. This small productive tree will produce delicious sweet figs in summer & usually a secondary crop in early fall (longest ripening season of varieties recommended). Excellent for preserves. Larger eye than Celeste.

### **Celeste**

Great for our area; the "sugar fig" of heirloom gardens. Purple-brown skin, pink flesh. Medium-small sized fruit with a rich, sweet flavor. Very cold hardy. Delicious fresh dessert quality & an excellent processing fig, either frozen or as fig preserves. Most cold hardy of all Texas figs. Large, vigorous, & very productive tree. Closed eye. Ripens in mid-June.

### **Italian Black**

An heirloom fig grown by the Becnel family of Belle Chasse, LA for over 100

### **LSU Gold**

Large, light yellow fig with very sweet, red flesh; heavy producer with excellent resistance to splitting; fast-growing tree.

### **LSU Purple**

Heavy producer of medium-sized, purple figs with strawberry pulp & super sweet, delicious flavor. This is another closed eye fig that is perfect for the Houston area. Ripens in early July after Celeste, so you can have an extended fig production. Very cold hardy.

### **Petite Negra**

Produces medium to large-sized plump, deep purple to black, juicy figs at a young age. Red flesh has excellent flavor. Short, compact tree to approx 8' tall is great for containers. Productive & very cold hardy. Small to closed-eye.

### **Texas Blue Giant**

Developed in Texas. Extra-large fig with purple skin and amber pulp. Fruit has a mild, sweet flavor and is good fresh or dried. Ever-bearing habit. Semi-closed eye. Grows 15-20' tall & wide.

### **Texas Everbearing**

Medium to large, brownish-yellow fig with very sweet amber flesh. This young bearing, large tree produces an early crop in May with the main crop ripening in late June and continuing to ripen into August. More upright tree than Brown Turkey.

### **Goji Berry**

Easy to grow & completely winter hardy! These slightly sweet & sour, red-orange berries are loaded with antioxidants & high in Vitamin B, Vitamin C, & amino acids. Plant this sprawling, deciduous shrub in full sun to part shade in well-drained, slightly alkaline to alkaline soil. Train as a vine (e.g., on a strong post or trellis) or trim to keep as a shrub. Can be grown in containers (minimum size 5 gallon).

Develops a deep taproot, so is quite drought-tolerant once established. Purple flowers appear in late spring/early summer followed by berries that get sweeter as they mature (produces continuously through frost). Prune horizontal branches by 1/2 to 2/3 in early spring as buds begin to break & start fertilizing with new growth (rose fertilizer is perfect since this is a relative of roses, tomatoes, eggplants, etc.). Very insect- & disease-resistant. Self-fruitful. Use fresh, frozen, or dried. Try in goji salsa, dessert recipes & more (lots of recipes available online).

## **Grapes-Bunch**

### **Blanc du Bois**

Award-winner; one of the best wine grapes for Southern regions of the U.S.; withstands heat & humidity; very mildew & Pierce's Disease-resistant; makes excellent premium white wines; round, light green, slipskin, juicy grapes with muscat flavor with delicate sugar-acid balance.

### **Black Spanish**

Juicy grapes with blackish-blue skin; good for juice, jelly, or wine; heavy producer; resistant to Pierce's Disease & mildew; excellent variety for the deep South; ripens Aug-Sept; wine produced is similar to Merlot or Cabernet.

### **Champanel**

Relatively new wine or table grape for humid Southern climates; heat- & drought-tolerant; good resistance to Pierce's Disease; large, tender & juicy black grape with strong thin skin; ripens in early July; makes great jelly; best arbor variety; adapts well in any soil.

**Grapes - Muscadine** **To ensure huge crops, plant a male (self-fruitful) and a female muscadine.**

### **Alachua**

Self-fruitful. Heavy producer of medium-size, tough-skinned, black fruit with strong muscadine flavor. Sweetest flavor when fully ripe (sugar content 18%). Eat fresh or use for juice or jelly. Good disease resistance. Mid- to late-season.

### **Carlos/Red**

Self-fruitful. Extremely heavy producer of medium size, bronze grapes. The number one bronze juice or muscadine wine grape in the southeastern United States.

### **Cowart**

Male/Self-fruitful. Fruit very large, with black skin. One of the largest male varieties. Quality very good. Sugar content 19%. Ripens medium early. Vine vigorous and productive with very large clusters. Good disease resistance.

### **Delicious**

Self-fruitful. Heavy producer of large, black fruit with excellent taste & texture & edible skin. Excellent pest & disease resistance. Heat- & humidity-tolerant. Early season. Multipurpose for fresh eating, wine, juice, or jellies.

### **Jumbo**

Female. Largest fruit of any muscadine cultivar so far introduced, black skin. Quality good. Sugar content 16%. Ripens midseason to late. The fruit ripens irregularly over several weeks, making it an excellent cultivar for home use. Vine productive with large clusters and disease resistant.

### **Noble**

Self-fruitful. Leading muscadine for red wine & juice production. Purple pigments are more stable than other black muscadines, so juice doesn't tend to brown over time. Concord grape-type flavor. Vigorous, highly productive vine. High pest & disease resistance. Heat & humidity-tolerant. Early to mid-season.

### **Southern Home**

Self-fruitful. Muscadine crossed with a complex hybrid having common wine grape parentage. Highly ornamental deeply cut foliage makes this a beautiful vine for home gardens. Moderate to high yields of medium-sized, black grapes with a non-muscadine flavor. Excellent red wine grape. Pest & disease-resistant. Heat & humidity-tolerant. Mid to late-season.

### **Southern Jewel**

Self-fruitful. High-yielding vine with large-sized, black fruit in unique large bunches of 6-12 grapes. Excellent taste, crunchy texture, & palatable skin for fresh eating. Disease-resistant. Early season.

### **Welder**

Self-fruitful. Vigorous & productive vine that produces medium-sized, bronze grapes good for fresh eating, juice & wine. Flavor is similar to commercial grape juice. 18-19% sugar. Ripens over an extended period in late summer to fall.

## **Raspberry**

### **Heritage**

Self-fruitful. Most popular everbearing variety with large, excellent tasting red fruit. Can produce a spring & a fall crop or cut to the ground each spring for a large crop of summer to fall berries (simplest). Bears fruit one year after planting. Very good pest & disease-resistance; good heat & humidity tolerance. Grows approx 4-8't x 4-6' w.

## **Strawberries**

### **Allstar**

June-bearing. Very large, sweet, extra juicy berries in late mid-season (usually late spring to early summer). Ripens over a few weeks. Eat fresh or use for cooking. Freezes well. Vigorous, disease-resistant plants reach 8-10"t x 18" spread.

### **Chandler**

June-bearing. Bred especially for southern gardens. High yields of brilliant red, medium to large, juicy fruit with good flavor. Freezes well. Early mid-season. Plants reach 6-8"t x 12-18" spread.

### **Eversweet**

An everbearing variety that was bred for the South. Heat & humidity-tolerant. Large, tasty, super sweet berries freeze well. Produces smaller yields over a longer period (spring to fall) than June-bearers.

### **Quinault**

Most disease-resistant of the everbearing varieties. Produces large, deliciously sweet berries up to 2" in diameter from spring to fall. Best for fresh eating, desserts, preserves, etc. Not recommended for freezing.

### **Sequoia**

June-bearing. Huge, dark red, sweet fruit. Longer harvest season than others.