

Winter Vegetable Gardening in Houston and on the Gulf Coast

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I don't know many people who love fruit and fruit trees more than I do. I love eating it, seeing a laden tree, meeting new fruit trees, and especially successfully planting, growing, and harvesting them. Sharing this passion and some the information needed to really succeed is a natural progression to your benefit. Get ready to learn about a few wacky trees that are easy to appreciate.



PERSIAN MULBERRY
(Morus nigra)

This excellent tall shade tree doubles as a delicious fruit producer. Pinkie-sized tasty sweet berries springing in abundance. Really a very heavy producer, and early in the year. One note: don't plant



**DWARF
BONANZA PEACH**
*(Prunus persica
'Bonanza Peach' Dwarf)*

Flavor wise, similar to a tasty robust yellow peach. But only 6' tall. Never needs pruning. A sculptural wonder, it loves shade. Be aware of root



LYCHEE
(Litchi chinensis)

Very sweet fruit, a true tropical but more cold-hardy than the star fruit. Racquet ball sized fruit with large seed that can be a choking hazard. Medium to small dark green evergreen

over driveway, fruit drop (and mess) is plentiful.



JUJUBE
(*Ziziphus jujuba*)

This fast-growing, deciduous tree can handle any weather. Often known as the Asian Date, this thorny monster can grow hundreds of sweet and dry "mini apples." Be aware of thorns (barbs and hooks) and propensity of roots to send up volunteers.

suckers, Grafted roots can overtake the small top. Then...no fruit.



STARFRUIT TREE
(*Averrhoa carambola*)

This true tropical is a fast-growing waxy leaved tree. Needs to be planted on the south side of your home to protect from freeze. When mature, produces many unique star-shaped fruits. Starfruit is lovely and tasty, but when unripe is ever so slightly toxic; always wait til fully ripe.

tree. Perfect for that family that loves a tropical flare.



JABOTICABA
(*Myrciaria cauliflora*)

A Brazilian wonder that grows hundreds of ping-pong ball sized fruits right on the trunk of the tree. Smokey, dark flavors that really surprise and will become the wonder of your landscape. Tree has crepe myrtle-like bark and leaves. Instead of flowers you get snacks!

Growing fruit is the easiest way to incorporate edible plants into your landscape. Take this list, shop, buy, plant, and enjoy! Gotta get Growin'!