

Fort Bend County

Master Gardeners

Fruit Trees and More

Herbs \$25.00

Baby Ginger, Zingiber -- This ginger has the same great flavor for cooking as the rhizomes usually found in stores, but it does not have the tough outer skin or the fibrous interior. The creamy-white and pink rhizomes can be prepared without peeling. It can be used in every way you have used market ginger – stir fry, pickled, candied. It can be chopped and frozen for use year round.

Turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) -- A ginger relative that is grown much the same way as ornamental gingers. The plant will grow to 3 feet with 5" wide, bright green pleated leaves. Turmeric likes full sun to light shade and regular moisture in a well-drained soil. Harvest the rhizomes when the plant begins to yellow as the day length shortens. Reserve several tubers for replanting.

Banana \$25.00

Ice cream (Blue Java) Banana -- This variety grows well in Richmond and the Texas Gulf Coast. Fruit is very sweet delicious and creamy with 6-8" white fleshed fruit that has a faint bluish skin before ripening to yellow. Fast growing with production in 9-18 months, very favorable.

Persimmon \$45.00

Weeping Persimmon -- This very rare variety of Japanese persimmon has a dainty weeping form. Trees must be staked when young since they bear early. The beautiful small deep red and orange, conical shaped fruit hang in heavy clusters off the tree like teardrops. Fruits are medium sized, astringent when first picked but soft and sweet when ripe. Truly one of the more ornamental of the edible landscaping fruit trees. Fruit ripens late October through mid-November. 150 chill hours.

Citrus \$45.00

Owari Satsuma -- The original heirloom Satsuma and still hard to beat – considered the gold standard. Introduced to the US from Japan over 50 years ago, it has a sweet flavor, low acidity, and a very delicate fruit. Hardy to 22F or lower. Seeds rarely present. Tree is moderately vigorous, but slow-growing; medium-small, spreading and drooping; very productive. Start tasting in October, and ripe into December. Harvest when fruit is green with orange blush.

Meyer Lemon, Improved -- The Meyer lemon tree is considered the world's gourmet lemon. The fruit is sourest in August, and sweetest in January. Bears heavily November through April. Meyer grows to about 10' tall and 8'-10' wide and produces heavy crops year after year. Allowed to ripen on the tree, the rind turns golden. Meyer lemon is the coldest hardy lemon for this area. If Meyer freezes to the ground in hard freeze it will grow and produce again in 18 months. The tree is believed a hybrid of the lemon and the mandarin orange.

Rio Red Grapefruit -- The most popular of the red Rio Grande Valley grapefruits. It is a large-sized tree that produces at an early age. Fruit is oblong, sweet, seedless, and low in acid. Pulp and flesh is deep red with a high juice content. On Trifoliolate rootstock, it is hardy to the lower 20s.

Algerian Tangerine Clementine -- The crown jewel of the Mandarin Citrus Family. A hybrid between an orange and mandarin or tangerine, this variety is seedless, smaller in size and has thinner membranes, and more plentiful juice with a refreshingly sweet tang. The color is a bright red-orange with a pebbled, loose skin. Produces better with Dancy Tangerine.

Dancy Tangerine -- Small tree that may only reach about 6' making this an excellent container plant. The fruit is red-orange, rich and flavorful with a slight tartness. Loose skin that is easy to peel. A prolific bearer ripens during the months of December and January. Produces better with Algerian Tangerine Clementine.

N-33 Navel Orange -- A long growing season makes navels popular. They have a meaty, low acid flesh, thick rind, and easy to peel. Segments separate easily and are seedless. Attractive and heavily bearing tree with fruit ripening in Oct. Hardy to 22F.

Pineapple Orange -- Fruit are medium large, somewhat flattened on both ends, with a moderately thick, smooth peel that develops good orange color under cool night conditions. Juice color and quality are excellent. It usually contains 15 to 25 seeds.

Berries \$20.00

Kiowa Blackberry -- Produces the largest berries of the Arkansas varieties. Large quantities of outstanding, flavorful berries are produced for about six weeks on thorny, but easily manageable canes. Blooms earliest and longer than other blackberries. If you can only grow one variety, this is by far the best. 200 chill hours.

Gogi Berry --Bright orange-red, ½ to 1" berries have a slightly sweet, mildly tangy flavor...somewhat like cranberry. Berries can be eaten fresh, made into juice, wine, herbal tea or dried and enjoyed as a snack.

The Goji shrub will grow 8-10' in full sun to partial shade, with emerald foliage. Fruit is borne on new wood so pruning after harvest is recommended.