

Fruit Trees for Fort Bend County

Deborah Birge, Fort Bend County Master Gardener

Southeast Texas' climate supports virtually year-round home-based food production, and there's nothing better than fresh, tree-ripened fruit. Whether you have a small suburban yard or a country estate, whether you're a beginner or experienced home gardener, you'll find a fruit tree that will work for you at the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners Fruit Tree Sale to be held on February 8, 2020.

The ideal time to plant containerized fruit trees is in early spring, after the chance of a freeze has passed. So, if you're thinking about adding a fruit tree to your landscape, now is the time to begin planning for your purchase. The Fort Bend County Master Gardeners February Fruit Tree Sale will be just in time for you to choose from a wide selection of trees carefully chosen to suit our climate.

If you've never grown a fruit tree, consider starting with some of the easier to grow, lower maintenance fruit trees. You'll be able to choose from among five varieties of fig. Improved Meyer lemon is another good choice for a beginner, as are persimmon and pear. There will be four varieties of persimmon and five varieties of pear from which to choose.



Photo by Deborah Birge, Bloomsweet Grapefruit

For those looking for something new or different, we will be offering several new varieties of fruiting trees and plants. Two new offerings are the tangelos. The Orlando, a favorite in taste test and the Wekiwa which is actually a tangelolo. We also have the sought-after red-fleshed, sweet and delicious Valentine pumelo. Additionally, we have the Sarawak, a Tahitian pumelo that taste like it's been dipped in sugar.

For those of you struggling to grow blueberries, we will be offering Southern High Bush blueberries that are more forgiving in alkaline soils. For those of you that want fruiting trees that benefit both you and wildlife, we have the female Texas Native black persimmon. For the cooks, we are offering Arabica coffee, turmeric, edible ginger, and Moringa oleifera, the miracle tree. Lastly, for those wanting to venture into tropicals, we offer guava, mango, and papaya.

To view a complete list of fruiting trees and plants that will be available at the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners Fruit Tree Sale visit <https://fbmg.org/events/annual-sales/fruit-citrus-tree-sale/>. There will be a free preview program Saturday, February 1, 2020, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Bud O'Shieles Community Center, 1330 Band Road in Rosenberg. The program will include recommendations on planting and care during the first two years. The sale will be Saturday, February 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (or earlier if sold out) at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds.

Proceeds from the sale support the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners' educational programs and demonstration gardens. Master Gardeners are trained volunteers who assist Texas A&M AgriLife Extension in providing horticulture education for Fort Bend County residents of all ages.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Fort Bend County Master Gardeners Hotline and Research Team at FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu.