

The Backyard Orchard (partial rewrite of article published 2019)

Submitted by Garreta Kipp, June 22, 2020



What can be better than harvesting colorful, fresh and tasty fruit from your own backyard! If the anticipation and excitement of growing fruit trees, berries and grapes appeals to you, you might give it a try. Here at Fort Bend County Master Gardeners we have an established backyard demonstration orchard that has proven quite successful. This compact orchard offers a realistic example of what can be achieved in a typical backyard space. Take a look at the picture reel accompanying this article to see images of the space we created!

One key to backyard orchard success is to start with a selection of fruit tree varieties with proven track-records of growing well in Fort Bend County, and there are many varieties to choose from. Our Backyard Orchard (BYO) features 18 of them, plus red grapes and berries! For a full listing, please visit the Demonstration Gardens section of our FBMG.org website, then select Backyard Orchard.

Your compact orchard will benefit from an aesthetic layout that supports healthy plant growth and easy maintenance. Plant groupings and pruning techniques, which will vary by tree type, will also be important to promote optimal tree health and fruit production. Helpful articles about layouts, planting instructions and pruning techniques can be found on our website and at <https://agrillifeextension.tamu.edu/browse/featured-solutions/#gardening>.

The pleasure of fresh-picked, homegrown fruit really can be yours. Happy Gardening!