



Fruits and Nuts

Training for 4-H Horticulture ID and Judging Contest



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R. Daniel Lineberger, Aggie Horticulture

Apple

(Malus domestica)

- Apple fruits are round to slightly elongated and red, yellow or green in color. The flesh is crisp, white, and juicy. They are often borne on short stems known as spurs. The blossom end of the fruit may have 4 (sometimes 2 or 3) distinct lobes. The skin is smooth with prominent lenticels, or may be covered with tan corky tissue known as russett.
- Seed are hard, small, ovoid, pointed at one end, black or brown and shiny. Papery membranes surround the seeds. Leaves are oblong to oval, alternate, pointed, with serrate margins, soft textured with a fine fuzz giving a dull appearance.
- Flowers are cymes, white with red-pink underneath, with 5 petals.
- Tree size varies greatly but is usually relatively small with an upright to slightly spreading growth habit. Some apple varieties grow in north and central Florida.



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Apricot

(*Prunus armeniaca*)

- Apricots resemble small peaches in shape and appearance, usually being yellow or orange with a vertical dent along one side. The skin is smoother than a peach, but is finely fuzzy.
- The stone is oval, flat, and smooth with ridges along one edge.
- Leaves are alternate, heart-shaped, sharp pointed, with finely serrated margins. The new growth often has a reddish tint.
- Flowers are solitary, produced in clusters, on short spurs, with 5 petals and 5 sepals and erect stamens.



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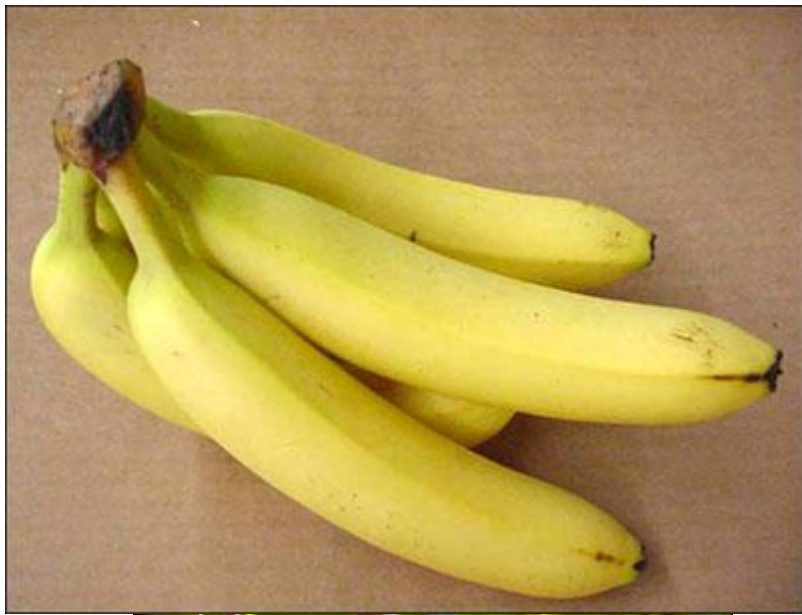
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Avocado

(Persea americana)

- Avocados are commonly pear-shaped but they may be rounded or prominently necked. Those grown in Florida commonly have smooth, green skins, but other types may have rough leathery skin which is almost black. The flesh is yellow-green, greener toward the skin and more yellow toward the seed.
- The single seed is brown, large and smooth. Fruit size is variable.
- Leaves are large, smooth, alternate, ovate, broadly pointed and dark green.
- The trees are medium to large and are generally considered to be evergreen although some types lose their leaves briefly before flowering. Avocados are grown in central and south Florida.



Banana

(Musa spp.)

- Bananas are long, finger-like, and slightly curved, with a smooth, yellow skin and soft, creamy-white pulp. There are no seeds in edible types.
- The fruit are arranged in clusters, called hands, of 6-25 or more bananas.
- Leaves are very large, blunt, wide and long, arranged in a spiral, and sometimes tattered along the edges.
- The flower bud is reddish-purple, large and pointed.
- Bananas mature fruit only in warm locations of Florida, but are grown as ornamentals throughout Florida.



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Barbados Cherry

(Malpighia glabra)

- The Barbados cherry is a large, densely-branched shrub. It can be pruned to form a single trunked small tree. The growth habit may be low and spreading, or upright and open.
- Leaves are glossy, 1 to 3 inches long, opposite to subopposite, and more or less egg-shaped.
- Flowers are small cymes, pink to red, with fringed petals.
- The small, juicy, thin-skinned fruit are roundish, about one inch in diameter and deep crimson. The fruit are borne in leaf axils, singularly, or in clusters of two or three. The flesh is yellow and has varying levels of acidity, depending on the cultivar. Barbados cherry grows in south Florida and in the warmer regions of central Florida.



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Black Walnut

(Juglans nigra)

- Black walnuts develop in clusters inside a rough, green husk about the size of a tennis ball. The shell of the nut is nearly round, black, very hard, rough and deeply ridged. The nut (kernel) is contained inside the shell.
- Leaves are 12 to 24 inches, alternate, and pinnately compound, having 15 or more lanceolate leaflets with serrate margins.
- Black walnut trees are very large, ranging from 50 to 75 feet in height and width and grow and fruit in north Florida.



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Blackberry

(*Rubus spp.*)

- Blackberry is a multiple fruit composed of 20-50 small fruitlets (*drupes*) attached to a central core which remains in the fruit when picked, unlike raspberry, where the core is hollow.
- The fruit are dark red to black at maturity and thimble-shaped.
- The plant is either a vine or shrub with trailing or arching stems (canes) which are nearly always thorny.
- Leaves are *alternate*, *trifoliate* or *pinnately compound* with 3, 5, 7 or 9 deeply *serrate* or toothed *leaflets*.
- Blackberries are grown throughout Florida and wild blackberries are common in the state.



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Blueberry

(*Vaccinium spp.*)

- Blueberries are small, round or oblate, blue to bluish-black at maturity, usually with a waxy bloom and remains of the calyx at the blossom end.
- Seeds are few and very small. Leaves are small, alternate, ovate, with short petioles, entire margins, and usually a waxy surface giving them a light green appearance.
- The flower is white and bell shaped, produced in clusters.
- The plant is usually a relatively small, multi-trunked shrub. Blueberries grow in north and central Florida.



Carambola

(Averrhoa carambola)

- The carambola tree is small and slow growing with a round canopy.
- Leaves are odd-pinnately compound with individual leaflets ranging from one to three inches in length.
- The fruit is egg-shaped with rounded ends. Five (rarely four or six) prominent long ribs give the fruit a star shape when cut in cross section. The thin skinned fruit is yellow, crisp and very juicy with an acid flavor.
- The number of seed varies from none to about ten per fruit. Seeds are long, thin and light brown. Carambola flowers are borne on panicles on twigs. They are perfect, up to 1/2 inch diameter, and pink to lavender in color. They have five petals and sepals. The carambola is grown in Central and South Florida.



David Lee, Biological Sciences, Florida International University

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Cashew

(Anacardium occidentale)

- The cashew is a small, tropical tree with a dense, spreading canopy.
- The evergreen leaves are simple and alternate, arranged toward the end of the stems. Each leaf is six to seven inches long, obovate to oblong with a rounded or sometimes notched tip.
- Flowers are in panicles; each flower, pale green at first then turning reddish, having five petals.
- The red to yellow fruit is pear shaped. A smooth, thin-shelled, grayish-green, kidney-shaped appendage (containing the nut) is suspended from the bottom end. Great care must be exercised in handling raw nuts, since the shell contains thick, poisonous, caustic oil. The nut inside the shell is light tan or whitish and curved.
- Cashews grow only in very warm locations of extreme South Florida.



Cherry, Sour / Cherry, Sweet

Senior

(Prunus avium (sweet),

P. cerasus (sour))

- Cherries are small, round, yellow, red or nearly black in color, and borne on long stems. The skin is smooth, shiny and thin.
- The pit is small, round, and smooth, somewhat like a plum seed.
- Trees have reddish brown bark with lenticels (horizontal marks).
- Leaves are alternate, oval and pointed, with doubly serrate margins and small glands on the petiole.
- The flower is a white raceme, on long pedicels, produced in clusters.



Chestnut

(Castanea mollissima)

- The Chinese chestnut tree reaches a height and spread of about 40 feet.
- Leaves are large, broad, pointed, with wavy margins.
- The flowers are yellow to white/cream/gray. Chestnuts develop inside a green, spiny husk which turns brown and separates at maturity to reveal two or more nuts.
- The nuts are 1/2 to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, and nearly round but flattened on one or both sides. The shell is thin, dark, leathery and shiny except for the large, roughened scar at one end. The nut is whitish inside a light tan, somewhat fuzzy seed coat.
- Chestnuts are grown in North Florida.



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Chinese Jujube

(Zizyphus jujuba)

- Trees are moderately large and upright, with spiny, gnarled branches and an open form, reaching 40 feet tall.
- Leaves are alternate, glossy and oval to slightly elongated, from one to two inches long, with three prominent bowed veins. There are sharp spines along the margin at the broad base of the leaf.
- Flowers are small, white or yellow, fragrant, and borne in the leaf axils.
- Fruit is small, to 1 inch, green when young, maturing to dark red, then black, with a sweet flavor. Chinese jujubes are grown in north and central Florida.



Coconut

(Cocos nucifera)

- The coconut is a subtropical palm.
- Leaves are very large, [pinnately-compound](#), with numerous long, narrow, pointed [leaflets](#).
- The flower ranges from white to creamy to gray.
- The thin skinned fruit is a [drupe](#) about the size of a football and may be green, brown or yellow at maturity. Beneath the skin there is a [husk](#) which is composed of fibers. The husk encloses the nut inside. It's hard, rough, brown, and has three "eyes" at one end. It is the largest of all nuts, being about the size of a softball. Pure white coconut meat lines the inside of the nut and usually a quantity of coconut milk is inside.
- Coconuts grow in warmer locations of Central and South Florida.



Fig

(Ficus carica)

- The fig is usually a deciduous, multi-trunked shrub in Florida.
- Leaves are simple, large, thick, bright to dark green, with three to five lobes; shiny above but dull or fuzzy below.
- The fruit are somewhat "pear-shaped," with a wide, flat bottom narrowing to a pointed top. When the fruit ripens, the top may bend, forming a "neck." Figs can be brown, purple, green, yellow or black, and vary in size. The fruit is fleshy with an "eye" leading to a cavity inside. The skin is slightly wrinkled and leathery. The fig flowers develop inside the fruit and cannot be seen.
- Seeds are either absent or inconspicuous. Figs are grown throughout Florida.



Grape, Bunch

(Vitis vinifera)

- Grapes grow in bunches or clusters on woody vines that use tendrils to attach to supports.
- Fruit may be green, red, purple, or yellow when ripe. Individual grapes are round or oval, thin-skinned and juicy.
- Seeds are few or absent, small, round and often pointed at one end.
- Leaf shapes vary with type and cultivar but are usually large, roundish to heart-shaped, often lobed, with serrate margins. Both wild and cultivated grapes can be grown throughout Florida.



Carl Hunter @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database / USDA SCS. 1991. *Southern wetland flora: Field office guide to plant species*. South National Technical Center, Fort Worth.



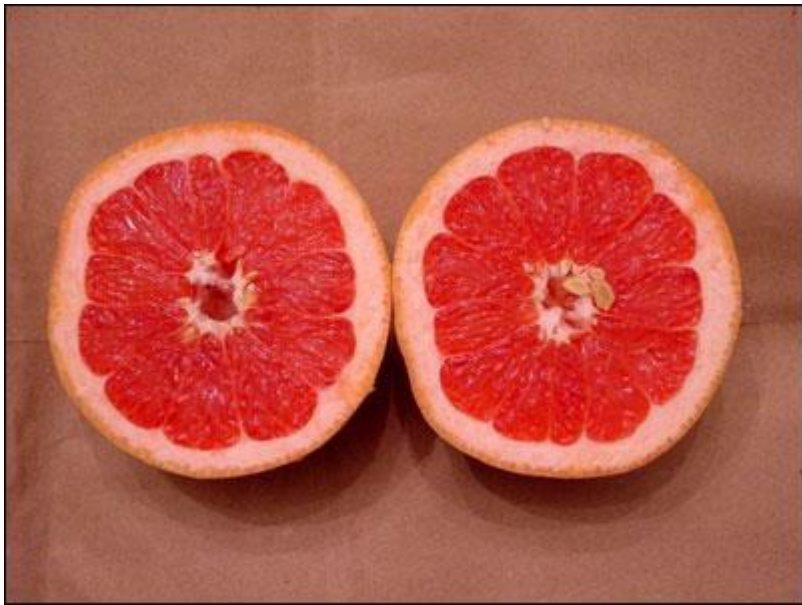
Allen Bridgman, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Bugwood.org



Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, Bugwood.org

Grape, Muscadine (*Vitis rotundifolia*)

- Muscadine grapes grow in loose clusters on woody vines that use tendrils to attach to supports.
- The fruit is harvested as single berries instead of bunches. The round ½ inch fruits have a thick, tough skin and contains up to 5 seeds. The color ranges from light bronze to pink to purple to black. The flesh of the round or oval berry is clear and translucent.
- The leaves and fruit are smaller than those of bunch grapes. Muscadine leaves are dark green on top and yellowish green underneath, alternate, with deeply serrated edges.
- The flower is small and green in color. Muscadines can be grown throughout Florida.



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Grapefruit

(Citrus paradisi)

- The grapefruit tree is moderately large with a dense, spreading canopy.
- Leaves are large, broadly ovate, blunt-pointed, with large, winged petioles which are heart-shaped. The fragrant white flowers have four petals.
- Grapefruit is usually about the size of a softball. The fruit is round but often flattened at each end with a rind that is yellow, or yellow tinged with pink or red. The flesh is buff or pinkish-red in color and slightly bitter or tart in taste.
- Seeds may be absent, few, or many. Grapefruit is grown throughout Central and South Florida.



Peggy Greb, USDA



Scott Henderson @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database



Guava

(Psidium guajava L.)

- Guava is a berry with few to many small brown seeds.
- The fruit is very variable in size and other characteristics depending on cultivar. Fruit shape ranges from round, ovoid to pear-shaped. The peel color ranges from green to yellow and flesh color may be white, yellow, pink or red. Fruit peel thickness may be thin or thick and depends upon cultivar. There is a wide range in flavor and aroma, ranging from sweet to highly acid and strong and penetrating aroma to mild and pleasant.
- The tree is small, single or multi-trunked, to 20 ft., with a spreading or upright canopy. The bark of the trunk is attractive with a mottled greenish-brown to light brown color.
- Leaves are opposite, oblong, 3 to 7 inches in length, with serrated margins and prominent veins on the lower side. Leaves are fuzzy on the lower side, especially when young.
- Flowers are white, about 1 inch in diameter and borne in leaf axils of new growth.



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Hickory Nut (*Carya spp.*)

- Hickory nuts grow on large deciduous trees ranging from 50 to 80 feet in height depending on the species.
- The alternate, compound leaves have serrate margins.
- The nuts develop inside a smooth, green husk that turns black and splits open at maturity. The nut is hard, tan in color, slightly ridged, usually with a pronounced point at one end.
- Hickory grows wild throughout North and North Central Florida, but the nut is of little economic importance.



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2007, Bob Hille.



Kiwi Fruit

(Actinidia deliciosa)

- Kiwi fruit grows on a vigorous, woody, twining vine or climbing shrub reaching 30 feet.
- Its alternate, deciduous leaves are oval to nearly circular, three to five inches long, with long petioles. Young leaves and shoots are coated with red hairs. Mature leaves are dark-green and hairless on the upper surface, with prominent, light-colored veins below.
- The fragrant flowers have five to six petals, white at first, changing to buff-yellow.
- The oval fruit, about the size of a large hen's egg, has russet-brown skin densely covered with short, stiff brown hairs. The fruit has a soft texture, green flesh, edible black seeds and a unique flavor.



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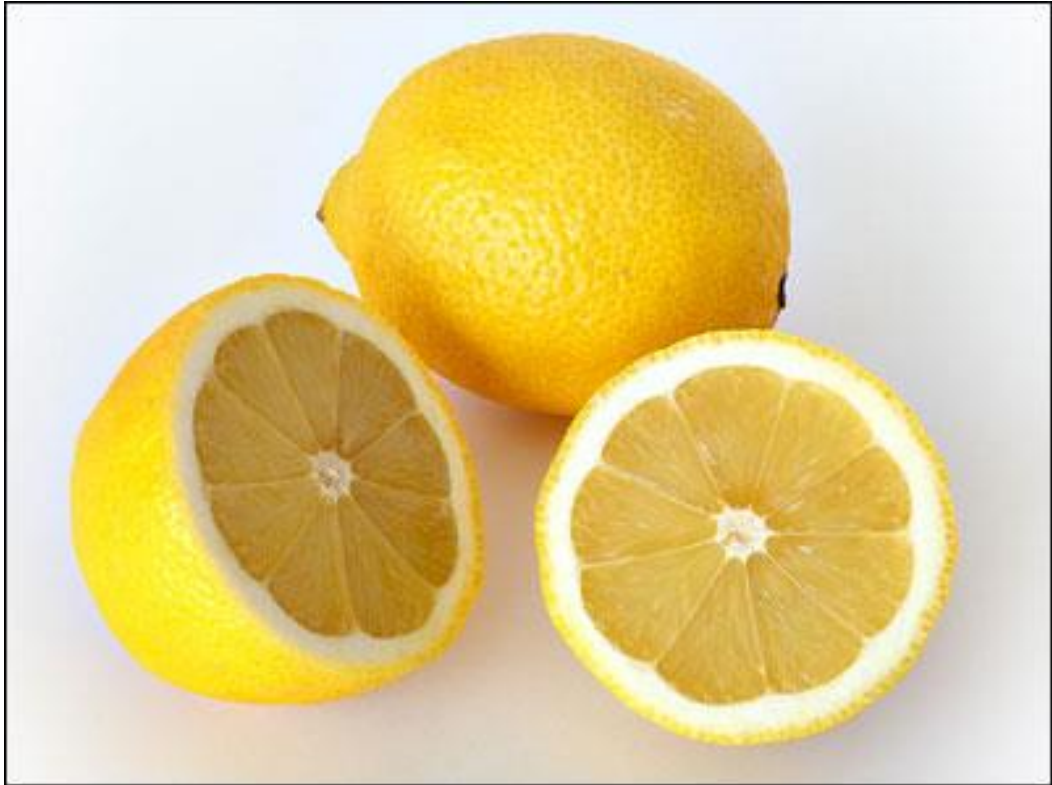


Courtesy of Dr. Michael Denner

Kumquat

(*Fortunella* spp.)

- Kumquat trees are small, slow-growing evergreen citrus trees that reach a mature height of 10 to 15 feet.
- The leaves are simple, alternate, and one to three inches long. They are dark green on the top of the leaf and lighter below.
- The flowers are pure white.
- Kumquats are the smallest citrus fruit. There are several species which vary widely in size, shape, and flavor. The fruit is oblong or round in shape and orange or reddish-orange in color. The rind is thin and pebbly. The flesh is in three to five segments, lacking in juice, with rather large seeds for the size of the fruit. Fruit may be tart or sweet, depending on species.
- Kumquats can be grown throughout Florida and are widely used as ornamental landscape plants.



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Lemon

(Citrus limon)

- Lemons grow on small, thorny citrus trees that reach a height of 10 to 20 feet.
- Leaves are ovate to oblong with very narrow or no petiole wings. The lemon has a white, fragrant flower with five petals.
- Lemons are oblong, yellow, and smooth-skinned, with a nipple at the blossom end. They may be slightly necked at the stem end. The flesh is buff colored, acid and aromatic. The lemon odor is characteristic of the leaves, rind and juice.
- Seeds are few, but present. Lemons are generally grown in South Florida and warmer areas of Central Florida.



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Lime, Key and Tahiti

(Citrus aurantifolia & Citrus latifolia)

- The key lime is a shrubby citrus tree, to 16 feet, with many thorns. The trunk rarely grows straight, with many branches that originate quite far down on the trunk.
- The leaves are ovate, one to three inches long, resembling orange leaves.
- The flowers, one inch in diameter, are yellowish white with a light purple tinge on the edges. Flowers and fruit appear throughout the year but are most abundant from May to September.
- The key lime is a round fruit that is yellow when ripe but usually picked green. It is smaller, seedier, has a stronger aroma, and a thinner rind than that of the Tahiti lime (*Citrus latifolia*). It is valued for its unique flavor compared to other limes, with the key lime usually having a more tart and bitter flavor.



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Loquat

(Eriobrya japonica)

- The loquat is a rapidly growing evergreen tree that can reach 25 to 30 feet in height.
- The ten to twelve inch long leaves are alternate, simple, oblong, leathery, and dark green above, rusty-colored below.
- The flowers are white, with five petals, and are produced in stiff panicles of three to ten flowers. The flowers have a sweet aroma that can be smelled from a distance.
- The fruit is golden yellow and fuzzy skinned. The dried flower can often be seen on the bottom of the fruit. There are a few large, shiny, dark seeds in the soft, tart, yellowish flesh.
- Loquats are grown mainly as landscape plants throughout Florida, and frequently produce fruit in even the coldest areas of the state.



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Lychee

(Litchi chinensis)

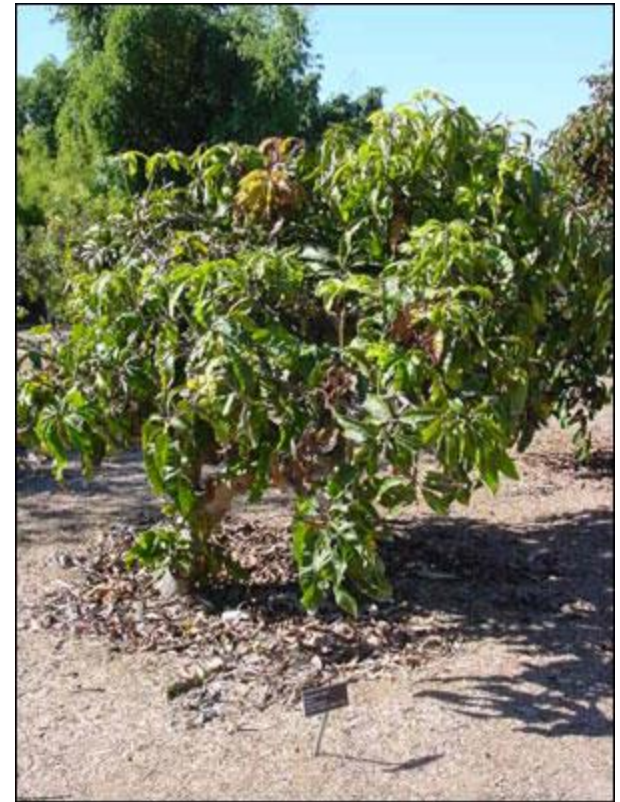
- Lychees grow in clusters of 2-30 on long stems. Dull red or occasionally yellow in color, oval to round in shape, to 1½ inches, they have a leathery skin covered with small, blunt wart-like bumps. The sweet, juicy flesh is white, translucent, much like a muscadine grape, and surrounds a large, oval, dark, shiny seed.
- Trees grow to 40 feet, with a rounded form.
- Leaves are dark green, glossy, narrow, alternate, elongated, and pointed at the tip. New leaves are a bronze red.
- Flowers are greenish-white to yellow panicles borne in terminal clusters.
- Lychees are grown only in warmer areas of Florida.



Mamey Sapote

(*Calocarpum sapot*, *syn. Pouteria sapota*)

- The tree is large, erect with an open form, and upright (to 40 feet) with a thick central trunk.
- Leaves are large and somewhat elongate (to 12 inches long and 4 inches wide), obovate to oblanceolate, clustering in whorls at the ends of small shoots. Brownish and pubescent when young, they are green, and glabrous when mature.
- Flowers are small, perfect, and white, to 2 inches, and also tend to cluster at the shoot tips.
- The fruit is a berry, 3-8 inches in length, ovoid in shape, with a calyx at the base. The skin is russet brown, thick, woody, and rough. The flesh is salmon pink, orange, red or reddish brown, smooth and soft to granular and contains usually 1 (but up to 4) large elliptical seeds which are hard, shiny and dark brown with a light brown scar.
- Mamey sapote grows only in the warmer areas of south Florida.



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Mango

(Mangifera indica)

- Mangos are variable in size and shape, which may be flattened, oval or S-shaped, and the color may be greenish-yellow, yellow with a red or purple blush or completely red. The skin is tight, thick and smooth. The flesh is yellow to orange with few to many fibers.
- The single seed is large, flat and in a woody, fibrous husk. Leaves are alternate, long and narrow, with prominent mid and lateral veins.
- The tree is medium to large, evergreen, with a symmetrical, rounded canopy. Mangos are grown only in very warm areas of Florida. They are in the same plant family as poison ivy. People who are allergic to poison oak or poison ivy, may have a similar reaction to the peel, juice or pulp of the mango.



Photos by Shirley Denton
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Photo by Guy Anglin
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Mayhaw

(*Crataegus* spp.)

- Mayhaw generally grows as a deciduous shrub, or small tree, with thorns and moderately small leaves of varying shapes depending on the species.
- The flowers of five white petals, sometimes six, bloom before the leaves appear.
- Mayhaw fruit are small (1/2 to 2/3 inches in diameter), round, yellow to bright red, fragrant, acid and juicy. The fruit resembles cranberries in appearance and crabapple in flavor.
- Mayhaw may be found growing naturally in North and Central Florida.



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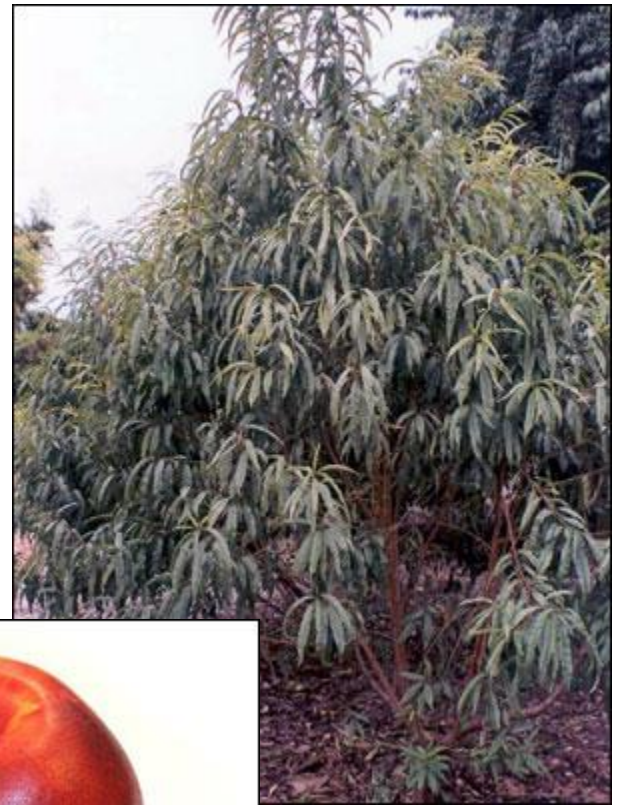


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Mulberry

(*Morus* spp.)

- Tree size, leaves, and other characteristics vary widely with species.
- Leaves are simple, serrated, light green, alternate, lobed or unlobed, and of varying size even on the same tree.
- The fruit are usually about one inch long, or smaller, mildly sweet and resemble a slender blackberry. It begins green then turns red then dark purple when mature. Fruit are borne on the current season's growth.
- Mulberry trees are deciduous, and grown in north and north-central Florida.



Nectarine

(Prunus persica spp. *nucipersica)*

- Nectarines are generally the same size, shape, and color as peaches, just a peach without fuzz. Like peaches, they have a suture or crease. However, they may be a little smaller and slightly tarter than peaches. Skin color is mostly red with some yellow. Flesh is yellow to white, redder near the center.
- The stone or pit is oval and deeply pitted.
- Tree is deciduous, small to medium in size to 20 feet, similar to peach.
- Leaves are bright green, glossy, alternate, and long with toothed margins.
- Nectarines are grown in north and central Florida.



Olive

(Olea europaea)

- Olive is a small to medium-sized evergreen tree believed to be native to Asia Minor and cultivated in Iran, Syria, and throughout the Mediterranean Basin up to 6000 years ago.
- The foliage consist of thick, [lanceolate](#) to [elliptical opposite](#) leaves that are typically gray-green on the upper surface and silver on the lower surface. The leaf [margin](#) is often rolled under.
- The bark is often gray in color, smooth (young trees) or rough and gnarled on older trees.
- The flowers are small, white and [racemose](#).
- The fruit is classified as a [drupe](#) and is edible only after processing.
- Olive oil extracted from the fruit is a major agricultural commodity in Mediterranean climates, where olives are best adapted.

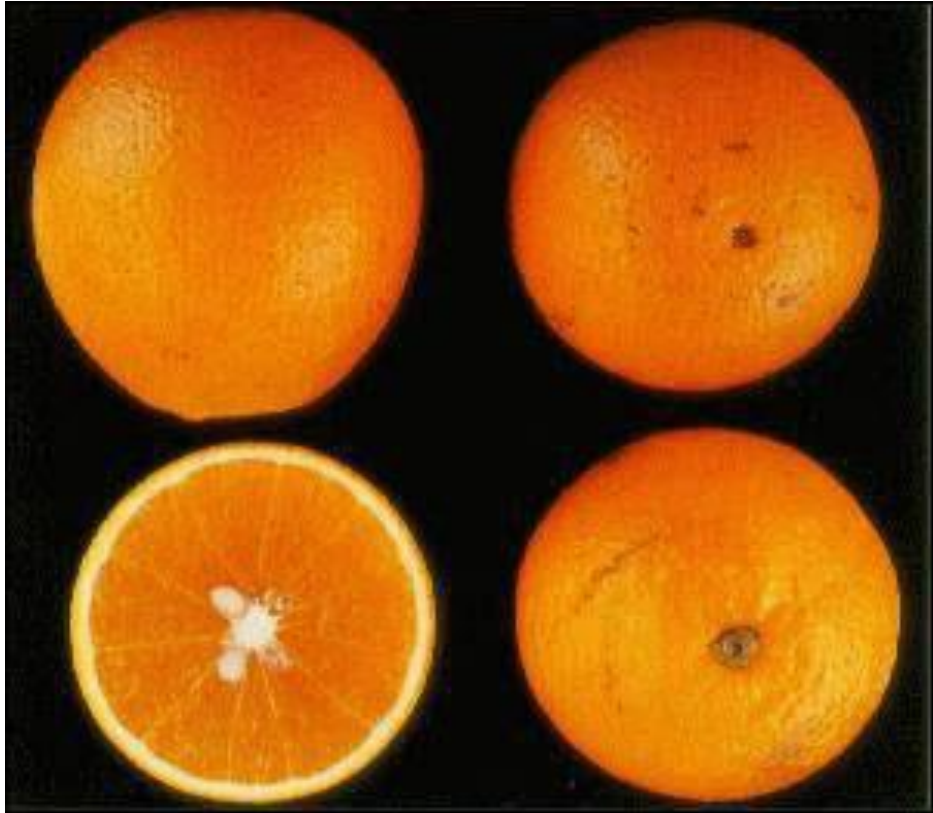


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Orange

(Citrus sinensis)

- Oranges grow on evergreen citrus trees that reach a mature size of 30 feet high and 20 feet wide. The branches of many orange trees are thorny.
- Leaves are ovate, pointed, and have rather narrow petiole wings.
- Oranges are about the size of a baseball. Fruit are round or nearly so, yellowish-orange in color, and have a somewhat coarse rind. The flesh is yellowish-orange and sweet.
- Seeds may be absent, few, or many. Oranges grow throughout Central and South Florida.



Papaya

(Carica papaya)

- Papaya trees can grow 10 to 12 feet high.
- Leaves with deeply lobed margins are on one to four foot long petioles.
- Flowers range from yellow to white.
- Papayas are a large, round, broadly pear-shaped fruit. They can be six to twenty inches long, four to eight inches wide, and weigh up to twenty pounds. The skin is thin and yellow or yellowish-green at maturity. The flesh is yellow-orange or red and somewhat firm. The center of the fruit is a large cavity lined with soft, black, pea-sized seeds.
- Papayas, including wild forms, grow throughout warmer areas of Central and South Florida.



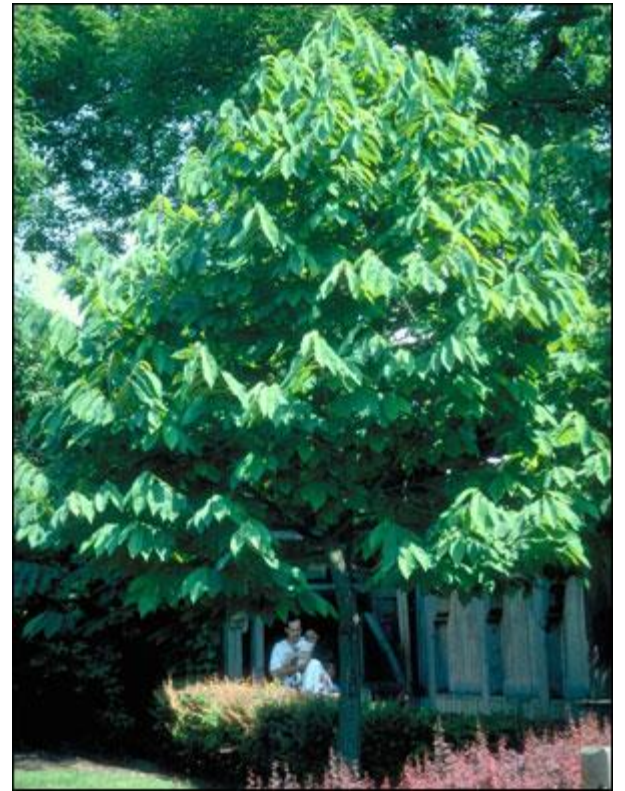
Courtesy of Alexander Klink

Forest & Kim Starr, [Hear.org](https://www.hear.org/).

Passion Fruit

(Passiflora edulis)

- Passion fruit is an evergreen, flowering vine that climbs by tendrils. Its height and spread varies depending on the structure it climbs on.
- The flower is purple and white and generally reaches a width of 3 to 5 inches. Other species have red, blue, or white flowers. Each unique flower lasts about one day appearing in the summer and early fall.
- The fruit is round to oval and purple or yellow with a smooth, glossy skin. It grows 2 ½ to 3 inches long and is edible and often used in juices. It is quite tasty and is occasionally served fresh.
- The leaves are alternate, deeply cut into three lobes with *entire margins*.



Pawpaw

(Asimina triloba)

- Pawpaw is a large shrub or small tree growing to a height of 35 feet with a trunk diameter of eight to twelve inches.
- The six to twelve inch long *lanceolate* leaves are *deciduous*, and spirally arranged.
- The flowers are dark red, 1/2 to 2 inches in diameter, with an unpleasant smell.
- The fruit is a large yellow-green *berry* two to six inches long. It contains several brown, 1/2 to 1 inch in diameter seeds which are embedded in the soft and edible fruit pulp.



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Peach

(Prunus persica)

- Peaches are roundish, sometimes pointed at the blossom end, with a suture along one side. Peaches vary in size but are usually about the size of a tennis ball. The skin is fuzzy and its color ranges from yellow to red. Flesh color is yellow, or sometimes white.
- The stone or pit is large, deeply pitted, oval or pointed, and tan to brown in color.
- The tree is deciduous, moderately small with a dense upright growth habit except when pruned to encourage spreading growth.
- Leaves are alternate, narrow and 4-8 inches long with finely serrated margins. They point downward and curve inward. Peaches are grown in north and central Florida.



Pear

(Pyrus communis)

- Pears may be oblong or nearly round. Typically the stem end is narrow, broadening at the base or blossom end.
- Fruit may be green, yellow, yellow with a red blush, or red. Like apples, the fruit are usually borne on short stems called spurs. The flesh is white, juicy and soft, with slightly gritty stone cells. However, some cultivars grown in Florida remain hard when ripe, and must be cooked to soften.
- The seeds and leaves are very similar to apple except that they lack fuzz and are smooth and shiny in appearance.
- Leaves are alternate, with serrate margins. Showy white flowers to $\frac{3}{4}$ inches appear in spring either before or when leaves emerge.
- Pear trees have a very upright habit of growth. Some pears are grown in north and central Florida.



Pecan

(Carya illinoensis)

- Pecan trees grow seventy to 100 feet in height.
- Leaves are odd-pinnately compound, with 11 to 17 leaflets, lanceolate, with serrate margins.
- Male and female flowers are on the same tree. The male flowers are in hanging catkins and the female flowers in spikes.
- Bark becomes gray, rough, and somewhat scaly on older trees.
- Pecans develop inside a rough green husk that turns black and splits open at maturity. The nut is oblong, brown or tan with black streaks, smooth, thin-shelled, pointed and one to two inches long. The kernel is distinctively ridged.
- Pecans grow throughout Florida, but rarely produce good crops in South Florida.



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A Portion of Peggy the Persimmon Lady's Orchard near Sopchoppy, Florida Jack Scheper ©2007 FloridaData.com



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Honan Red Japanese Persimmon (Diospyros kaki 'Honan Red') Jack Scheper © 2007 FloridaData.com

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Persimmon, Japanese

(*Diospyros kaki*)

- This deciduous tree can grow to about 30 feet when mature.
- The broad, stiff leaves are alternate, ovate, dark green and shiny above, lighter below, and up to 7 inches in length. Leaf margins are often curled.
- The inconspicuous flowers surrounded by a green calyx, and may be white, cream-colored or pink-tinged.
- The persimmon fruit are round to oval, yellowish-green to orange or red in color, and may reach the size of a peach. Notice the dried calyx at the top of the fruit. This can help distinguish persimmons from apricots or tomatoes. They are sweet, slightly tart fruits with a soft to occasionally fibrous texture.
- Seeds are large, flat, dark and shiny, if present.
- Persimmons are grown throughout Florida.



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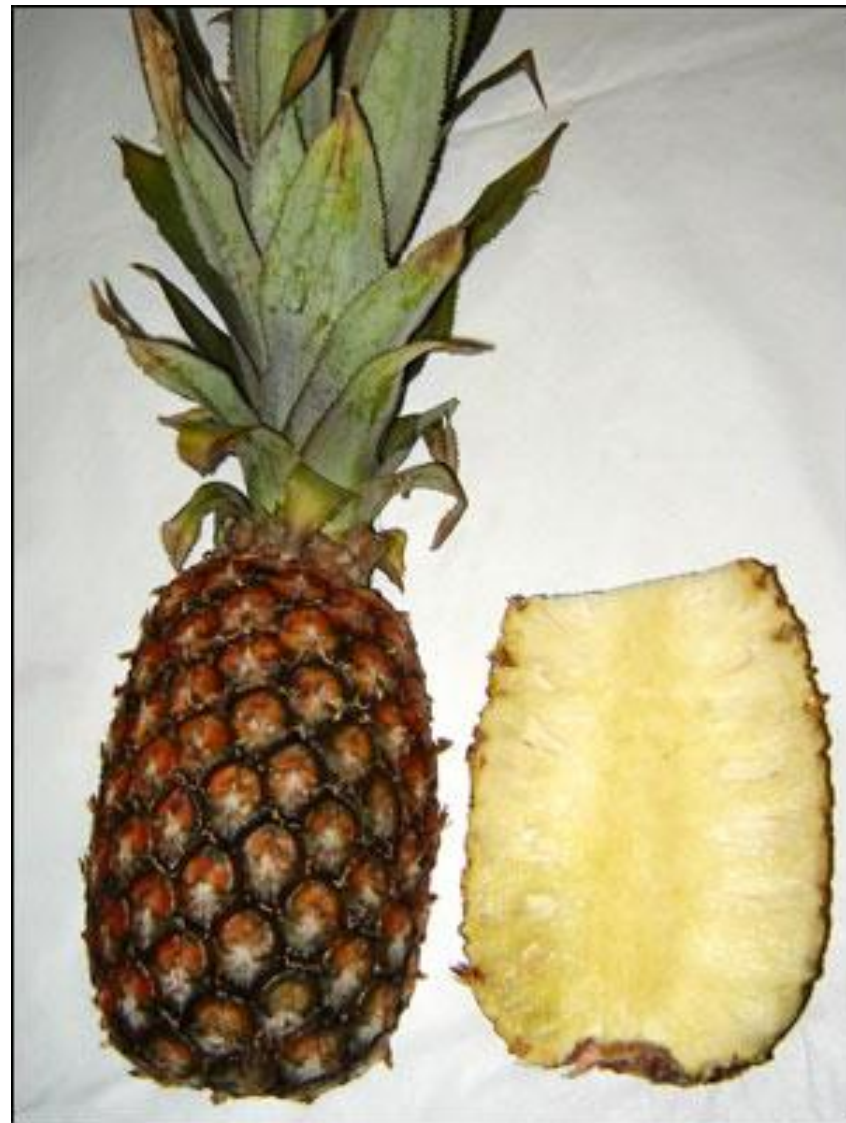
Diospyros virginiana

Photo by Shirley Denton

Persimmon, Native

(Diospyros virginiana)

- The native persimmon tree grows to 60 feet tall.
- The leaves are alternate, simple, and a rich green color. The leaf margins can be entire or somewhat serrated.
- The funnel-shaped flower has four petals and ranges in color from white to cream to gray.
- Native persimmon fruits are nearly round, shiny, and tough-skinned. They are about one inch in diameter, and the color, when ripe, ranges from a yellow-orange to a dark red-orange. They ripen from September to October, usually after the tree has lost its leaves.
- Wild persimmons are common in North and Central Florida.



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Pineapple

(Ananas comosus)

- Pineapple plants can reach five feet tall and four feet wide.
- The leaves are waxy, strap-shaped, and two to six feet in length. They usually have a sharp point on the tip of the leaf and spines along the margins of the leaves. The leaves may be green or variegated in color.
- The pineapple fruit grows on a stalk in the center of the rosette of leaves. The pineapple is a multiple fruit. (i.e. Fruits formed when a cluster of flowers produces numerous fruit that mature into a single mass.) The pineapple is oval to cylindrical in shape, topped by a leafy crown. The skin is golden yellow at maturity and has numerous scales. The flesh is whitish-yellow, juicy and sweet, around a central fibrous core.
- Seeds are absent.
- Pineapples are grown in warmer areas of Florida and can be grown in containers and as ornamentals throughout Florida.



Purdue

Plum

(*Prunus* spp.)

- Plums closely resemble small nectarines in shape, although some may be oval instead of round. Like nectarines, they have a crease on one side. The flesh and skin color vary greatly with cultivar (yellow, green, red, blue or purple) and unlike nectarines, the color is not mottled. The skin is smooth and thin; the stone is usually oval, pointed at one end, and slightly rough.
- Leaves are alternate, shape also varies with cultivar but is usually wider and shorter than peach, being more or less ovate (egg-shaped), with finely serrate margins.
- Showy white flowers have 5 petals and prominent stamens.
- Tree shape varies from spreading to upright, depending on cultivar.



Pomegranate

(Punica granatum)

- Pomegranate fruits are berries, brownish red to purple-black, to 5 inches, with a protruding calyx at the blossom end. The skin is leathery. The flesh is a juicy, edible, reddish pulp surrounding numerous, small, dark seeds.
- Leaves are dark green, glossy, simple, opposite or in whorls, small and somewhat narrow, oblong to oval, clustered on short branchlets.
- Pomegranate is grown mostly as a small ornamental tree or large shrub. Branches are slender and somewhat thorny.
- Blooms are a flaming orange-red, to 2.5 inches in diameter with crinkled petals and numerous stamens. Flowers are borne solitary or in small clusters.



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Photo by Manfred Heyde

Quince

(Cydonia oblonga)

- Quince grows as a small deciduous tree with white flowers appearing in late spring on the ends of relatively long shoots.
- Leaves are oblong to oval, pointed, with serrate margins. They have a soft texture with fine fuzz giving them a dull appearance.
- The fruit are fuzzy, round or pear-shaped, and usually large (up to one pound in weight). A yellow surface color develops at maturity during late summer. Fruit are quite hard, even at maturity, but are edible when cooked or made into jelly or preserves.



Purdue



Photo by Masayo Wright



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Raspberry

(*Rubus* spp.)

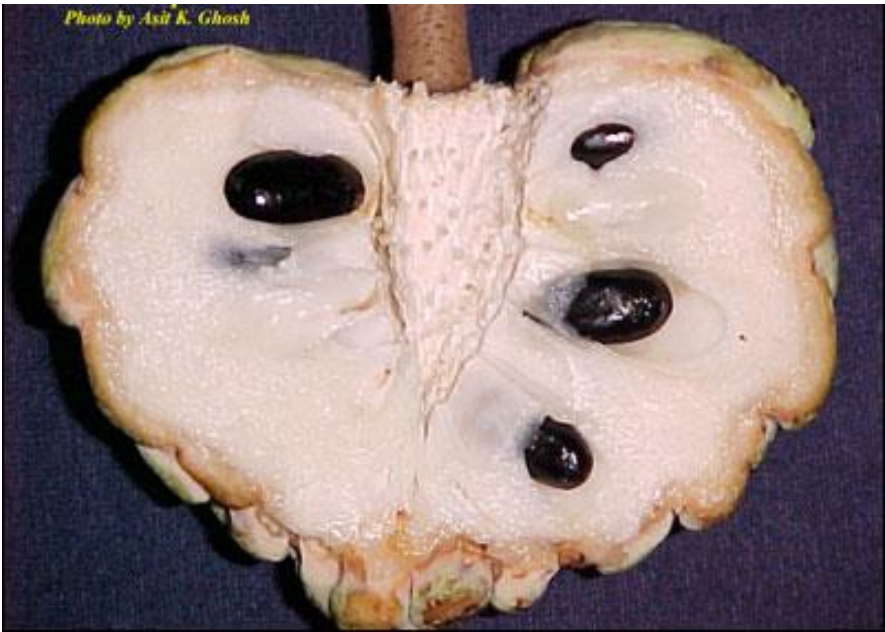
- Raspberries are very similar to blackberries but the color may be red, black, purple or golden when mature. Unlike blackberry, the central core stays on the plant when the fruit is picked, causing the fruit to be hollow, like a thimble.
- Raspberry leaves are alternate, compound with 3-5 leaflets and serrate margins. They are usually broader than blackberry and usually whitish and slightly fuzzy underneath.
- Raspberries grow on bushes. The stems are called canes and have small thorns called prickles. New canes often have a whitish waxy surface.



Strawberry

(*Fragaria* spp.)

- The strawberry is a nearly stemless small plant. It forms stolons on which new plants develop.
- Leaves are compound, consisting of three rounded leaflets with deeply serrated margins.
- The strawberry flower is about an inch in diameter with five white petals and a yellow center.
- The fruit is bright red at maturity, somewhat cone-shaped or flattened cone-shaped, with numerous small, hard, brown seeds scattered on the outside surface in shallow depressions. The fruit is fleshy, with a prominent, green calyx at the stem end.
- Strawberries are grown throughout the state as a winter annual.



Sugar Apple, Custard Apple

(Annona squamosa)

- This small tree rarely exceeds 15 feet in height or width.
- Leaves are pale green, narrow and two to four inches long, sparsely hairy when young, but smooth at maturity.
- Flowers are greenish yellow, about one inch long and borne singularly, or in clusters of two to four.
- Ripe fruit are green or purplish-red, round, egg-shaped or somewhat cone-shaped and range from two to five inches in diameter. The fruit consists of many loosely attached segments which project from the fruit surface as rounded lumps and are easily separated at maturity. The pulp is white or creamy-white and soft, with many small, shiny, dark brown seeds.
- Sugar apple is grown only in the warmer regions of South Florida.



Forest & Kim Starr Hear.org.



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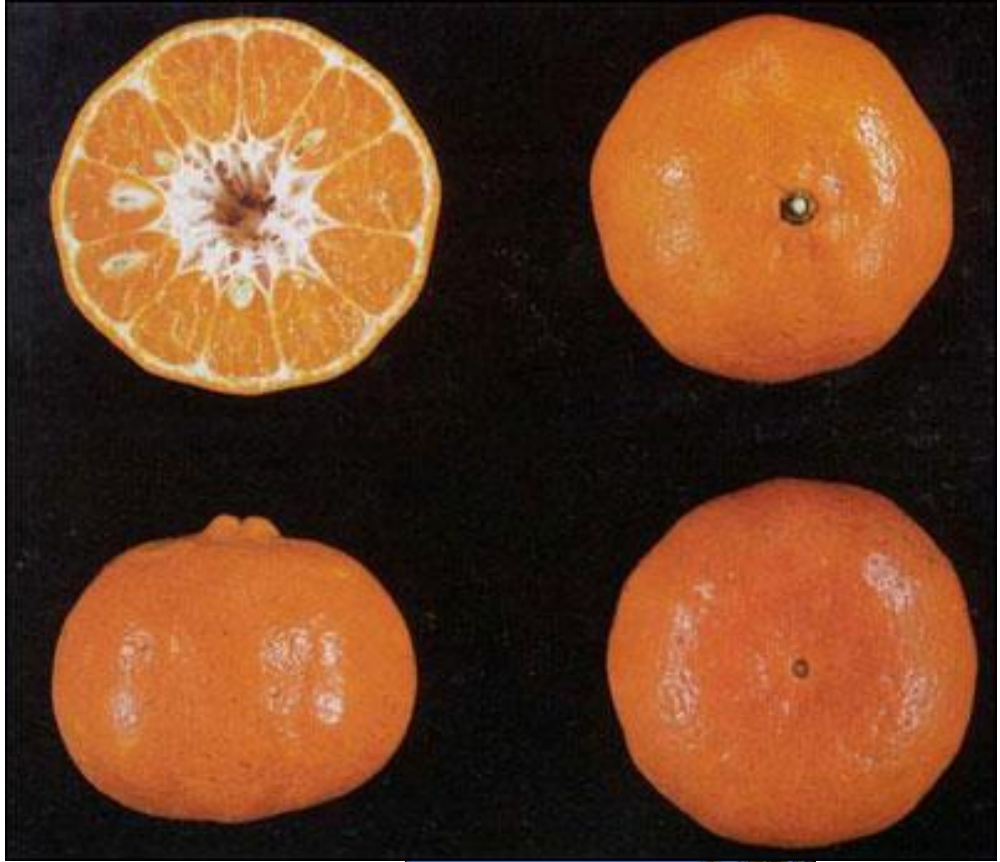


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Tangelo

(Citrus x tangelo)

- Tangelo is the result of a cross between two citrus—a tangerine and a grapefruit. The tangelo tree can grow to a large size and is easily recognized by its cup-shaped leaves.
- Leaves are similar to oranges, with *petiole* wings of various sizes.
- Tangelos are usually about the same size as oranges, usually round, sometimes with a distinct neck at the stem end. The rind is orange to reddish-orange in color. Fruit usually peels easily and the segments usually separate readily.
- Seed numbers are variable. Tangelos grow throughout Central and South Florida.



Tangerine

(Citrus reticulata)

- Tangerine trees have an open, roughly symmetrical crown. They can reach a mature height of 15 to 20 feet.
- Tangerines have shiny, *lanceolate*, *evergreen* leaves. The *petioles* are slightly winged.
- Tangerines have small white fragrant flowers. The tangerine fruit is flattened in shape, two to four inches in diameter, and orange to orange-yellow in color. The rind is thin, leathery and peels easily from the fruit. The flesh is orange, juicy and sweet-tart, in segments which separate readily.
- They can be grown throughout most of the state.

- You can now test yourself with a quiz
- Go to [Quiz: Test your Florida ornamentals knowledge](http://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/mastergardener/outreach/plant_id/quiz/orn_quiz.html)
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