

Directory of Certified Deciduous Fruit and Nut Crop Nurseries in Florida¹

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The sustainability of fruit and nut crops as a farm enterprise is dependent on the proper selection of a species and cultivar in relation to the specific region where the crops are to be grown (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg367>). Florida represents several climatic regions. The proper selection of species and cultivars is probably the most important decision that determines the success or failure of a farm enterprise.

The University of Florida has released many fruit crops, including peaches/nectarines (<http://www.hos.ufl.edu/extension/stonefruit/stone-fruit-varieties>), plums (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs250>), rabbiteye and southern highbush blueberries (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ac031>), muscadine grapes (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs100> and <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs401>), bunch grapes (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/mg105>), an apple (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/hs764>), and a pear. All of these releases have a low chilling requirement, which is critical to all growing regions of Florida. Many of these UF specialty crop cultivars ripen in early spring during a market window with little or no worldwide competition. Site selection is extremely important for successful production of most fruit and nut crops in Florida. Potential orchard sites should have soil that is well drained and slightly sloped for cold air drainage.

A number of cultivars have been developed for North, Central, and South Florida, and a continued emphasis for the breeding program is to increase the diversity of

germplasm for the entire state. However, small and large producers seldom are aware of, nor can they find, these Florida-adapted cultivars of fruit and nut crops from local nurseries. Many of the UF cultivars are patented through the Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc. (FFSP, <http://ffsp.net>), and bud wood is made available to those nurseries that purchase licenses. It is important to buy patented varieties from licensed nurseries. FFSP is a nonprofit corporation and direct support organization of the University of Florida. FFSP works closely with the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station (FAES), an agricultural and natural resources research program of the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS).

According to a 2007 agricultural census, 91% of all farms in the United States are classified as small farms (gross cash farm income < \$250,000). Likewise, more than 90% of all Florida farms are small farms. Florida is unique, however, in that it is one of the few states that showed an increase in the total number of farms in the 2007 census. This 8% increase in the total number of farms was essentially all in the small farm category. Small farmers in Florida have great opportunities because of the large urban centers, the mild climate, and abundant natural resources available. Most small farmers choose to directly market their products to the consumer to maximize profits. A diversity of fresh products to offer, such as fruits, nuts, and vegetables, generally is preferred at most direct-market venues. Some direct marketing strategies include farmer's markets, on-farm

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sales, roadside stands, subscription sales, community-supported agriculture (CSA), U-pick, and sales directly to restaurants or institutions, such as schools (<http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/fy597>).

Florida is poised to increase the number, sustainability, and profitability of small farms with increased access to new and improved cultivars, further exploitation of market windows, the development of new information and technologies on culture, and management and pest control, which includes insect monitoring, the use of trap cropping, safer targeted pesticides, and biological control. UF/IFAS is conducting research throughout the state to identify the key limiting factors to sustainability and profitability of low-chill fruit and nut crops by evaluating new cultivars, developing new production and management strategies, and using traditional and novel marketing dissemination methods.

Florida's subtropical climate is suitable for the culture of numerous fruit and nut trees. Certain species and cultivars can be grown successfully in Florida with a minimum of inputs (well adapted to Florida) or only with the investment of substantial inputs (marginally adapted), while others cannot be grown at all (non-adapted). Agricultural sustainability is largely a function of identifying and selecting adapted species/cultivars for a given geographic region. Proper crop selection results in minimal inputs, such as pesticides, irrigation, fertilizer, and labor. Sustainable crops are those with minimal inputs and consistent outputs, including yield, fruit quality, and minimal environmental impact. Crops that meet these criteria are candidates for organic practices, small farms with limited resources, and/or a desire to avoid extensive inputs. However, there is not always a good correlation between profitability and sustainability. Other crops may be less sustainable (southern highbush blueberry) but still be attractive because of high potential profitability. Cultivar selection is the orchard's foundation. Appropriate cultivar selection minimizes inputs and maximizes profits.

This publication was developed to assist farmers in locating recommended cultivars of fruit and nut crops from Florida nurseries. The nurseries listed in Table 1 offer fruit and nut trees and are listed as certified nurseries with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (http://www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/plantinsp/nursery_directory/nur_directory.html). The nursery certification process is regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (http://www.freshfromflorida.com/pi/plantinsp/docs/brief_summary.pdf). Many nurseries listed in Table 1 only offer a few cultivars, while others offer several cultivars of many fruit or nut crops. Table 2 lists

fruit and nut cultivars that University of Florida Extension specialists currently recommend or suggest on a trial basis. Maintaining an up-to-date list of cultivar inventory at each nursery is very challenging, so contact the nurseries directly to determine current inventory, or view their websites if available.

Table 1. Directory of certified Florida nurseries offering fruit and nut crop trees

Nursery business listing	Crops
<p>Adam's Plants 8135 Southern Blvd. West Palm Beach, FL 33411 Phone: (561) 793-4303 adamsplantsinc@yahoo.com http://www.adamsplants.com</p>	Banana, citrus, fig, muscadine grape, peach, plum
<p>Agri-Starts 1728 Kelly Park Rd. Apopka, FL 32712 Phone: (407) 889-8055 Fax: (407) 889-2523 info@agrstarts.com</p>	Banana, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, rabbiteye blueberry, fig, muscadine grape, peach, raspberry
<p>Berry Blue Farm & Nursery 2903 W 60th Hwy. Plant City, FL 33567 Phone: (813) 508-1104 http://www.berrybluefarms.com/</p>	Southern highbush blueberry
<p>Blue Gold Growers 5645 WO Griffin Rd. Plant City, FL 33567 Phone: (813) 748-5817</p>	Southern highbush blueberry
<p>Bluestar Nursery 8115 SE US Hwy. 301 Hawthorne, FL 32615 Phone: (352) 481-3300</p>	Southern highbush blueberry, rabbiteye blueberry
<p>Brite Leaf Citrus Nursery, LLC 480 CR 416 S Lake Panasoffkee, FL 33538 Phone: (352) 793-6861 Fax: (352) 793-3674 order@briteleaf.com http://www.briteleaf.com</p>	Cold-hardy citrus
<p>Carlton Myers Nursery & Orchard 14451 NE CR 339 Trenton, FL 32693 Phone: (352) 463-6602</p>	Persimmon
<p>Chestnut Hill Tree Farm, Inc. 15105 NW 94th Ave. Alachua, FL 32615 Phone: (386) 462-2820 / (800) 669-2067 Fax: (386) 462-4330 chestnuthilltreefarm@gmail.com http://chestnuthilltreefarm.com</p>	Apple, banana, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, rabbiteye blueberry, cold-hardy citrus, chestnut, fig, grape, nectarine, olive, peach, pear, pecan, persimmon, plum, pomegranate
<p>Dewar Nurseries, Inc. 625 W Keene Rd. Apopka, FL 32703 Phone: (800) 329-1188 http://www.dewarnurseries.com</p>	Banana, blackberry, fig, southern highbush blueberry, muscadine grape, pomegranate, kiwi
<p>Dole Berry Company East / Mixon Farms 3510 State Rd. 546 East Haines City, FL 33844 Phone: (863) 294-8856 / 4301 Fax: 863-439-4134 Rhonda Richardson Rhonda.Richardson@dole.com By appointment only</p>	Southern highbush blueberry

Nursery business listing	Crops
<p>Excalibur Fruit Trees 5200 Fearnley Rd. Lake Worth, FL 33467 Phone: (561) 969-6988 Fax: (561) 641-3028 sales@excaliburfruittrees.com http://www.excaliburfruittrees.com</p>	<p>Apple, banana, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, fig, grape, nectarine, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, pomegranate</p>
<p>Florida Hill Nursery PO Box 530318 Debary, FL 32753 Phone: (386) 873-8064 floridahillnursery@yahoo.com http://www.floridahillnursery.com</p>	<p>Banana, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, fig, muscadine grape</p>
<p>Going Bananas 24401 SW 197th Ave. Homestead, FL 33031 Phone: (305) 247-0397 Fax: (305) 247-7877 goingbananas@bellsouth.net http://www.going-bananas.com</p>	<p>Banana</p>
<p>Green Sea Farms 6360 Johnston Rd. Zolfo Springs, FL 33890 Phone: (863) 604-3778 Cindy Weinstein Greenseafarms@yahoo.com http://greenseafarm.com</p>	<p>Pomegranate</p>
<p>Green Scene Nursery 7544 Number Two Rd. Howey, FL 34737 Phone: (352) 324-2560 Kali Frey gsn@atlantic.net http://greenscenenursery.com</p>	<p>Pomegranate</p>
<p>Green's Nursery 5844 Round Lake Rd. Apopka, FL 32798 Phone: (407) 889-3611 Fax: (407) 889-0204 http://www.greensnursery.com Ray and Ann Green (owners)</p>	<p>Apple, banana, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, chestnut, fig, muscadine grape, mayhaw, nectarine, peach, pear, pecan, persimmon, plum, pomegranate</p>
<p>Hopkins Nursery 25355 Shultz Grade Immokalee, FL 34142 Phone: (239) 658-0370 Fax: (239) 658-0390 http://hopkinstropicalfruitnursery.com</p>	<p>Banana, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, fig, muscadine grape, nectarine, olives, peach, persimmon, plum, pomegranate</p>
<p>Island Grove Ag. Prod. Nursery Div. 2600 SE 193rd Ave. Hawthorne, FL 32640 Phone: (352) 481-5558 / (352) 274-3835 Fax: (352) 481-5093 bsheffield@islandgroveagproducts.com http://www.islandgroveagproducts.com Bert Sheffield</p>	<p>Blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, rabbiteye blueberry, fig, muscadine grape, nectarine, peach, pomegranate</p>

Nursery business listing	Crops
<p>Just Fruits and Exotics 30 St. Frances St. Crawfordville, FL 32327 Phone: (850) 926-5644 Fax: (850) 926-9885 justfruits@hotmail.com http://www.justfruitsandexotics.com</p>	<p>Apple, banana, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, rabbiteye blueberry, cold-hardy citrus, chestnut, fig, grape, mayhaw, nectarine, olive, peach, pear, pecan, persimmon, plum, pomegranate, walnut</p>
<p>Lee's Nursery, Inc. US Hwy. 27 E., PO Box 26 Branford, FL 32008 Phone: (386) 935-1410 Fax: (386) 935-3020 LeeNur1@windstream.net James and Linda Lee</p>	<p>Apple, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, rabbiteye blueberry, chestnut, fig, muscadine grape, mayhaw, nectarine, olive, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, pomegranate</p>
<p>Lora's Lovely Plants 11206 S US Hwy. 441 Lake City, FL 32025 Phone: (386) 590-0390 Fax: (386) 755-9728</p>	<p>Apple, southern highbush blueberry, citrus, fig, nectarine, olive, peach, persimmon, plum</p>
<p>Lychee Tree Nursery 3151 S Kanner Hwy. Stuart, FL 34994 Phone: (772) 283-4054 http://lycheetreenursery.com</p>	<p>Fig</p>
<p>Miller Blueberry Plantation & Nursery 394 CR 315 South Interlachen, FL 32148 Phone: (386) 684-6362 Fax: (386) 684-1812 info@millerblueberry.com http://www.millerplantnursery.com Jimmy Miller</p>	<p>Southern highbush blueberry, rabbiteye blueberry</p>
<p>Oasis Tropical Plants and Trees Springhill, FL 34606 Phone: (734) 308-4264 oasiscustomersalwaysfirst@yahoo.com http://oasistropicalplantsandtrees4u.com</p>	<p>Banana, citrus, fig</p>
<p>Pebbledale Farms 12729 Amber Ln. Lithia, FL 33547 Phone: (863) 450-8202 Tina Connell tina.pebbledale@hughes.net</p>	<p>Southern highbush blueberry</p>
<p>Phillip Rucks Citrus Nursery, Inc. 1697 Rucks Dairy Rd. P.O. Box 1318 Frostproof, FL 33843 Phone: (863) 635-1948 Fax: (863) 635-7624 rucksnursery@aol.com</p>	<p>Cold-hardy citrus, low-chill peach</p>
<p>Pine Island Nursery 16300 SW 184th St. Miami, FL 33187 Phone: (305) 233-5501 Fax: (305) 233-5610 info@pineislandnursery.com http://www.tropicalfruitnursery.com</p>	<p>Apple, southern highbush blueberry, fig, muscadine grape, nectarine, olive, peach, persimmon, plum, pomegranate</p>

Nursery business listing	Crops
<p>S.E.M. Nursery 12328 NW SR 45 High Springs, FL 32643 Phone: (386) 454-8084 Art Striver – appointment only</p>	<p>Banana, rabbiteye and southern highbush blueberry, chestnut, fig, muscadine grape, kiwi, olive, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, pomegranate, black walnut</p>
<p>Simple Life Farms 8135 N Brook Way Citrus Springs, FL 34433 Phone: (352) 302-9559</p>	<p>Southern highbush blueberry</p>
<p>Simpson Nurseries LAA PO Box 160 Monticello, FL 32345 Phone: (800) 874-3571 / (229) 224-8242 Fax: (850) 997-2518 Chip Culbreth http://simpsonnurseries.com</p>	<p>Apple, blackberry, rabbiteye blueberry, fig, bunch and muscadine grape, nectarine, peach, pear, pecan, persimmon, plum, pomegranate</p>
<p>Spyke's Grove 7250 Griffin Rd. Davie, FL 33314 Phone: (954) 583-0426 oranges@att.net http://spykestropicalnursery.com</p>	<p>Apple, banana, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, rabbiteye blueberry, cold-hardy citrus, chestnut, fig, muscadine grape, nectarine, olive, peach, persimmon, plum, pomegranate</p>
<p>True Blue Plants 8701 Rhodes Rd. Hudson, FL 34669 Phone: (877) 237-5268 Fax: (727) 674-4067 http://www.trueblueplants.com</p>	<p>Southern highbush blueberry, rabbiteye blueberry</p>
<p>Twigs and Berries Nursery 300 Cheney Hwy. Titusville, FL 32783-5712 Phone: (407) 832-8326 Steve Kopacz steve@twigsandberries.net miraclefruitman@aol.com http://www.twigsandberries.net</p>	<p>Apple, banana, blackberry, southern highbush blueberry, cold-hardy citrus, chestnut, fig, muscadine and bunch grape, nectarine, olive, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, pomegranate</p>

Table 2. Recommended fruit and nut species and cultivars grown in North and North Central Florida

Species	Recommended cultivars	Recommended for trial
Pecan (<i>Carya illinoensis</i>)	Cape Fear, Elliott, Curtis, Stuart, Sumner, Moreland	Amling, Caddo, Excel, Forkert, Kanza, Desirable, Pawnee, Lakota, Gafford, Headquarters, Baby B, Apalachee, Creek, Giftpack, Oconee, Byrd, Mandan, Kiowa
Peach (<i>Prunus persica</i>)	North Florida: Flordacrest, Flordaking, Gulfking, Gulfcrest, Gulfcrimson North Central Florida: Flordabest, Flordacrest, Gulfking, UFBeauty Central Florida: UFSun, UFOne, Flordaprince, TropicBeauty	North Florida: Gulfprince, GulfAtlas, Gulfsnow, UFGlo North Central Florida: UF2000, UF Blaze, UFO, UFSharp, TropicSnow Central Florida: UFBest, UFBeauty, Flordaglo, UFGold
Nectarine (<i>Prunus persica</i>)	North Florida: Suncoast North Central Florida: Sunbest, Sunmist	North Florida: Sunmist North Central Florida: UFQueen, UFRoyal
Plum (<i>Prunus salicina</i>)	Gulfbeauty, Gulfblaze, Gulfrose	For extreme North Florida only: Au-Homeside, Au-Producer, Au-Roadside, Au-Rosa, Au-Rubrum, Byrongold, Excelsior, Ozark Premier, Robusto, Segundo
Southern highbush blueberry (<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i> × <i>V. darrowi</i>)	Emerald, Farthing, Jewel	For Central Florida only: Snowchaser, Springhigh, Primadonna, Meadowlark, Scintilla For North Florida only: Georgiagem, Oneal, Rebel, Sweetcrisp For North Central Florida only: Springhigh, Meadowlark, Primadonna, Snowchaser
Rabbiteye blueberry (<i>Vaccinium virgatum</i>)	Austin, Climax, Brightwell, Powderblue, Premier, Savory	For North Florida only: Arapaho, Ira, Ochlocknee, Yadkin
Blackberry (<i>Rubus</i> spp.)	North Florida: Ouachita, Natchez (both thornless), Kiowa (thorny)	North Florida: Apache, Arapaho, Navaho (all thornless), Tupy (thorny). North Central and Central Florida: Brazo, Oklawaha, Flordagrand, Tupy
Muscadine grape (<i>Vitis rotundifolia</i>)	Fresh-market grapes: Black Beauty, Black Fry, Fry, Granny Val, Ison, Pam, Pineapple, Tara, Polyanna, Southern Home, Summit, Supreme, Sweet Jenny Processed grapes: Alachua, Carlos, Noble, Welder	Fresh-market grapes: Majestic, Southern Jewel, Delicious, Eudora, African Queen, Big Red, Darlene, Doreen, Early Fry, Florida Fry, Nesbitt, Lane Processed grapes: Creek, Golden Isles
Southern bunch grape (<i>Vitis</i> spp.)	Processed grape (wine): Blanc duBois	Fresh-market grapes: Daytona, Orlando Seedless, Emerald, Blue Lake Processed grapes (wine): Suwannee, Stover, Black Spanish, Conquistador
Apple (<i>Malus domestica</i>)*	Anna, Dorsett Golden	Tropic Sweet
Pear (<i>Pyrus serotina</i>)*	Baldwin, Flordahome, Hood, Tenn, Kieffer Orient, Carnes, Pineapple, Moonglo	Housi, Shinseeki, 20 th Century
Oriental persimmon (<i>Diospyros kaki</i>)	Fuyu	Izu, Matsumoto Wase Fuyu, Ichikikei Jiro, Hana Fuyu, Jiro, Suruga
Chestnut (<i>Castanea mollissima</i>)	Seedlings which are best propagated from large seeds	Carolina, Revival, Heritage, Williamette
Mayhaw (<i>Crataegus aestivalis</i>)*	Insufficient data	Lori, Lindsey, Big Red, Red and Yellow, Heavy, Mason's Super Berry, T.O. Super Berry, Highway Super Berry, Super Spur
Fig (<i>Ficus carica</i>)*	Brown Turkey, Black Spanish, Celeste	Alma, Conadria, Jelly, Osborne Prolific, Pasquale, Tena, Ventura, Champagne, Green Ischia, Kadota, LSU Gold, LSU Purple, Magnolia, O'Rourke, Tiger

Species	Recommended cultivars	Recommended for trial
Olives (<i>Olea europaea</i>)*	Although Arbequina, Mission, and Manzanillo appear adapted to North Florida, we have insufficient data at this time.	Arbequina, Mission, Manzanilla, Ascolana, Lecino, Frontio, Coratina, Kalamara, Arbosana Koroneiki
Pomegranate (<i>Punica granatum</i>)	None (insufficient data at this time)	Thomson, Cranberry, Don Summer South, Don Summer North, Nikitski Ranni, Pink, King, Eve
Kiwi (<i>Actindia deliciosa</i>)	None (A prior trial at North Florida Research and Education Center based on the Hayward cultivar was not successful.)	Hayward, ZESPRI Green, ZESPRI Gold, ZESPRI Organic
Banana (<i>Musa</i> spp.)	None (Bananas require cold protection and usually require 12–18 months to produce a crop.)	Cavendish (protection required)
Satsuma (<i>Citrus unshiu</i>)	Owari, Brown Select, Kimbrough	Early St. Anne, Xie Shan
Kumquat (<i>Fortunella × crassifolia</i>)	Meiwa, Nagami	Murumi, Hongkong

*Not recommended for commercial production at this time.