

Outline

- Tree Fruits
 - Apple and Pear
 - Stone Fruit?
 - Pawpaw
 - Figs
 - Persimmon
 - Mulberry
 - Pomegranate
- Berries
 - Blueberry
 - Blackberry
 - Raspberry
 - Grape/Muscadine
 - Juneberry/Serviceberry
 - Strawberry
 - Elderberry

Things to Consider

- Quality nursery stock can get expensive
- Sun and Soil Requirements
- Time investment
- Special equipment and infrastructure may be needed (i.e. trellises, sprayers,

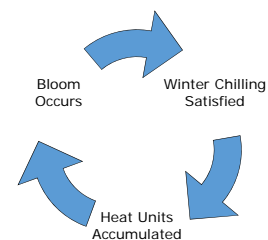
Site Requirements

- Full Sun
 - Photosynthesis
 - Quick drying of rain and dew = less disease
- Soil: Well-Drained, but not soggy, pH 6.5
- Good air drainage, movement
 - Frost and disease avoidance

Chill Hours

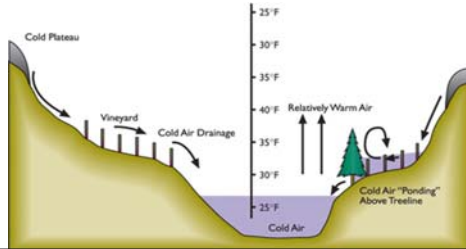
- Apples: 300-1200 hours below 45 F
- Blueberries: 100-900
- Peaches: 150-1100
- Muscadine: 400 but have a high heat requirement

Low Chill Hours.....



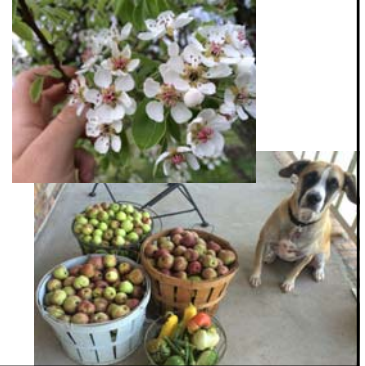
Critical Temperatures for open blooms

- About 28 F if still air
- Slightly lower if wind is blowing



Apples and Pears

- **Pluses**
 - Hardy, long lived trees
 - Multi-season interest
 - Disease resistant varieties
 - Fruit
- **Minuses**
 - Disease and insect problems
 - maintenance



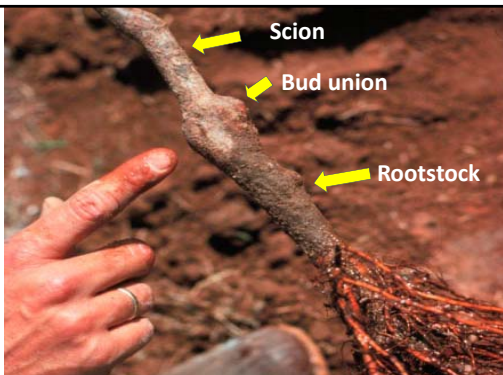
Apples and Pears

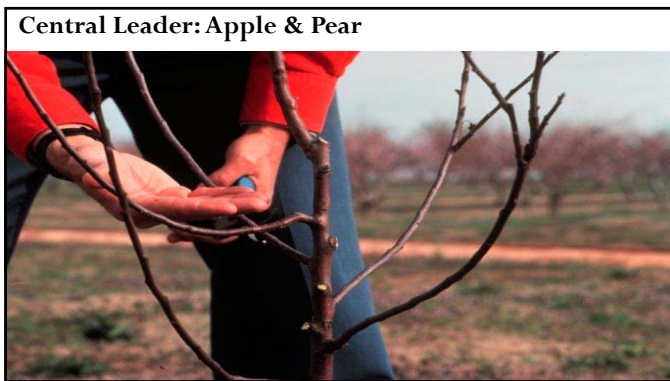
- **Require cross pollination**
 - Two cultivars needed
 - Crabapples will work as pollinator with apples
- **pH 6-6.5**
- **Need Pollinators**
- **Check your "Apple Zone" for variety selection**
 - We are in Zone 1



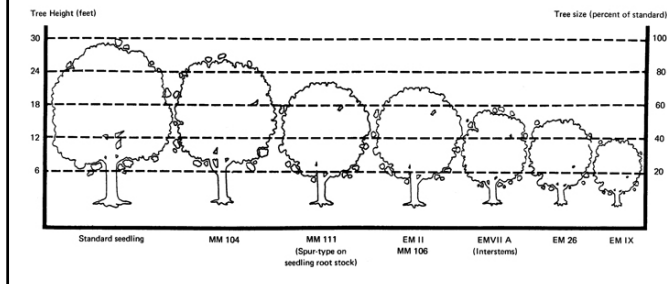
Soil Preparation and Planting Depth

- **Soil Test prior to ordering Trees!!**
- **Dig a big hole-at least 2-3 times the size of the roots**
- **Amend pH throughout as deep as possible *you've only got one shot**
- **Set plants to the same depth as they grew in the nursery**





Apple Rootstock Variation



Stonefruit: Peaches, Plums, Cherries

• Very difficult in our climate

- Diseases
- Insects
- Late Frosts
- Sour Cherries do OK... 'montmorency', 'balaton' 'nanking': shrub type cherry

Pawpaw

- Largest native North American Fruit
- Small tree 15-30ft at maturity
- Need two for pollination
- Relatively problem free
- Difficult to transplant so must start with small seedlings



Figs

- Many well adapted varieties for N. Georgia
- Fast-Growing
- pH 5.5-6.5
- Few disease issues
- Self-Fertile
- Can suffer frost injury
- 'Celeste', 'Brown Turkey', 'LSU Purple', and 'Hardy Chicago'

Mulberries

- Georgia was founded with a plan for textile production, namely silk production because France and Italy were outcompeting England in production
- General Oglethorpe established the colony in 1734 and the Trustee Garden in Savannah where mulberry trees were grown to feed silk worms.
- As late as the 1830's there were still some efforts to make a viable silk industry..... Canton gets its name

Giant Mulberries

- Pakistan mulberry
- Large, fast growing
- Can be messy if planted close to homes, sidewalks, cars
- Few problems
- Self-Fertile
- Good Bird food



Pomegranate

- Dense, bushy shrub: good crapemyrtle substitute
- Fruit on current season growth
- Attractive Flowers
- Hardy varieties are seedy
- Self-fertile
- Russian Varieties perform best in N. Georgia
- Does well in containers or as bonsai
- Plant on S or E exposure



Pomegranates



Blueberries

- Soil pH 4.5-5.3, light with high organic matter
- Great Edible Landscape plant
- Southern Highbush and Rabbiteye-best for home gardens
- Good bird food....
- Do well with mulch



Blueberry: Pollination

- **Rabiteye – long bloom period, best to use 3 different varieties**
 - Premier (early season)
 - Vernon (early season)
 - Alapaha (early season)
 - Climax (early season)
 - Brightwell (mid season)
 - Tifblue (late season)-good fall color
 - Powderblue (late season)
 - Ochlockonee (v. late season)

Blueberry: Pollination

- Southern highbush – 2 Varieties recommended
 - Star (Blooms very early)
 - O'Neal (Blooms very early)
 - Windsor
 - Legacy

Bunch Grapes

- A bacterial disease (Pierce's Disease) clogs the xylem of the plant and limits where certain bunch grapes can be grown.
- Generally American bunch grapes and their hybrids are preferred for home garden production. Less spraying required than with European grapes.
- Below 1300 feet Pierce's Disease resistant cultivars are best.
- Regular spraying is critical for production

Pierce's Resistant Bunch Grapes

- Miss Blue-jelly
- Blanc Dubois-white wine
- Norton / Cynthiana-red wine
- Black Spanish-red wine
- Generally set about 10 feet in the row and 10 feet between rows.
- Single wire trellis or two wire horizontal trellis

Muscadines

- Native Grape and resistant to Pierce's
- Like growing Kudzu
- Very well suited to SE climate and home garden use
- Female cultivars need for cross pollination
 - Scuppernong, Summit, Fry, Jumbo, Hunt
- Self-Fruitful: Carlos, Cowart, Dixiland, Tara
- Typically grown on single wire trellis but can use double-curtain method, spacing is 20' between vines



Strawberries

- Matted Row most common for home gardeners
- Weeding is a challenge
- Great Edible landscape Potential
- Annual hill system for commercial production



Strawberry Planting

- Do not plant in soil that has had any nightshade plants have been grown in previous 5 years
- Plant 2' apart in row
- Pull flowers off the first year to allow plants to develop runners



Bramble Terminology

- Primocane- First year growth from ground, fruit bud formation develops late in summer
- Floricane – Year two canes where flowering and fruit formation occur
- Primocane Fruiting- Blackberry
- Trailing

Erect Blackberry

- Trellis are optional
- Trellis does improve production
 - Helps with fruit drop due to weight and wind pressure
- A "V" shaped trellis is ideal
- Primocane fruiting varieties can be mowed to the ground each year so trellises can make this more of a challenge



Trellis Systems



Elderberry

- Native, great wildlife plant
- Large shrub, edible landscape potential
- Highly adaptable to most soils
- Low maintenance requirements
- University of Missouri doing work on improved varieties



Juneberry-Serviceberry

- Native and highly adaptable to most soils
- Limited maintenance requirements
- Multi-stem large shrub up to 25'
- Edible landscape potential
- Birdfood....
- Susceptible to insect and disease



More Info

- UGA Publications
 - Minor Fruits (B 992)
 - Apples (C 740)
 - Muscadine (C 949)
 - Blueberries (C 946)
 - Pest Control Handbook <http://www.ent.uga.edu/pest-management/>
- www.smallfruits.org
- www.fruit.cornell.edu