

Orchard History

In February 2007, the first row (close to the back road) of fruit trees was planted. This row has 3 dwarf "Desert Gold" peaches, 3 dwarf "July Elberta" peaches, and 3 dwarf "Crimson Gold" nectarines, planted at 10' spacing. Two persimmon trees were planted west of the Herb Garden Pergola.

July Albertas have the smallest pit to fruit ratio with a bright red skin and a golden yellow flesh. They should ripen in August. Because this variety bruises easily, it is not grown for commercial use.

Desert Golds have delicious yellow, semi-freestone flesh. They should ripen in July.

Crimson Gold Nectarines are fuzzless peaches that have bright red fruit and flesh that never turns brown when cut. They should ripen in July.

In the fall of 2007, a second row of 9 trees was planted along the existing row, spaced 8' from row 1 with the trees planted in a staggered fashion from the first row. This row has 3 dwarf "Golden Delicious" apples, 2 "Honeysweet" pear, 2 "Redheart" plums, and one "Shiro" plum. At this time, one of the "Crimson Gold" nectarines was replaced. Two "Brown Turkey" figs (from McIntire's) have also been also planted.

Self-pollinating dwarf trees were selected since the dwarf trees only grow to about ten feet tall and five feet in diameter. Peaches have a chilling requirement or Zone assignment that relates to the number of hours of winter temperatures between 32 to 45 degrees required to break dormancy and induce normal bloom and vegetative growth. We are located on the edge of Zones 8 and 9, and we selected trees listed for Zone 9. Trees for this Zone require around 350 chilling hours.

There are a total of 16 trees in the orchard. This sig was formed to care for the orchard. This would include pruning, fertilizing, spraying the trees, also picking the fruit if and when there is fruit.

If you love trees, join this SIG and give the trees some TLC.