The Backyard Orchardist: A Complete Guide To Growing Fruit Trees In The Home Garden
Synopsis
For every gardener desiring to add apples, pears, cherries, and other tree fruit to their landscape here are hints and solid information from a professional horticulturist and experienced fruit grower. The Backyard Orchardist includes help on selecting the best fruit trees and information about each stage of growth and development, along with tips on harvest and storage of the fruit. Those with limited space will learn about growing dwarf fruit trees in containers. Appendices include a fruit-growers monthly calendar, a trouble-shooting guide for reviving ailing trees, and a resource list of nurseries selling fruit trees.

Book Information
Paperback: 250 pages
Publisher: Ottographics; Rev Sub edition (January 1, 1995)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 0963452037
Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.9 x 9 inches
Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces
Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars  See all reviews (79 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #193,352 in Books (See Top 100 in Books)  #45 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Trees  #68 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Fruit  #1053 in Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences

Customer Reviews
If you have found it difficult to move beyond dreaming about a backyard orchard, this book is such a powerhouse of information that you will confidently plant a pair of fruit trees knowing that they will not drown, succumb to drought or disease, and not be defoliated by Japanese beetles. You’ll even know how to prune them so that the branches grow outward rather than straight up, thus allowing in the sunlight needed to ripen your fruit. Consider the chapters below, which the author has divided into 6 sections:

Section 1: Getting started with fruit trees, includes chapters on fitting them into your landscape, selecting the right site by paying attention to climate, average minimum temperatures and hardiness, length of growing season, soil, moisture, sunlight, and space required. Did you know that cherry trees cannot have wet roots for longer than 24 hours or they will release cyanide and kill themselves? So cherry trees should be planted on a slope or hill with good drainage.

Section 2: Fruit
fundamental - growth habits of specific fruit trees includes chapters on Pome fruit (apples and pears) and Stone fruit (sweet & tart cherries, apricots, plums, aprium, pluots, peaches and nectarines). Section 3: Caring for your fruit trees includes chapters on nutrition and fertilizers, pruning, growing fruit trees in containers (so you can bring in, say, a fig tree inside for the winter), and flowering, fruiting, and thinning (many fruit trees will produce too many fruits and either their branches will break or the fruit will be very small, so you must thin the fruit on them). Section 4: Pests and Disease has chapters on insect pests, disease identification, insect and disease controls, and wildlife pests.

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