

Maritime Northwest Fruit Tree Field Guide

Complete species reference for designing edible landscapes in the Pacific maritime climate — cultivar data, pollination, disease pressure & design rationale

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HIGH RELIABILITY — Consistently Productive in Maritime Northwest Conditions (13 species)

✓ Dependable Harvest

Tree	Latin Name	Cultivars / Notes	Reliability Notes	Time to Fruit	Ripening (MNW)	Pollination	Disease Pressure	Pros	Field Notes	Pendragon Design Rationale	Invasive Risk	
1	Peach	<i>Prunus persica</i>	Frost; Indian Free (noted for strong leaf-curl resistance)	High (with leaf curl resistant cultivars)	2–4 years	Late Aug – early Sept	Self-fertile	● Moderate (leaf curl main MNW issue)	Excellent fresh fruit; productive; spring blossoms	Full sun; maximize airflow; resistant cultivars matter most	Demonstrates that cultivar choice can turn a marginal species into a reliable MNW producer	Very low
2	Strawberry Tree	<i>Arbutus unedo</i>	'Compacta' — smaller tree with reliable fruiting and excellent structure for edible landscapes.	Medium–high	3–5 years	October through December	Self-fertile (more fruit with multiple trees)	● Very low	Evergreen canopy (screening/structure); attractive bark; fall flowers for pollinators; edible fruit; wildlife value; drought tolerant once established	Plant in full sun; avoid waterlogged clay; minimal irrigation after establishment	Evergreen edible tree that brings structure and pollinator support while still fruiting in MNW conditions. Very drought tolerant.	Low
3	Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Desert King	High (breba crop)	2–3 years	Late July – Aug	Parthenocarpic (no pollination needed)	● Low	Reliable maritime fig; easy propagation	Warm exposures help; south walls increase heat	One of the most dependable fruit trees for maritime climates when correct cultivar is used	Low
4	Quince	<i>Cydonia oblonga</i>	Smyran, Crimea, Orange, Pineapple, Van Deman	High	3–5 years	October	Mostly self-fertile	● Low–moderate (fire blight possible)	Very fragrant fruit; strong culinary value	Let fruit hang late; maintain airflow	Reliable fruiting with lower disease pressure than apples or pears	Very low
5	Medlar	<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	Desert King	High	3–5 years	Late Oct – Nov	Self-fertile	● Low	Unique historic fruit; dependable producer	Harvest after frost; allow fruit to soften	Compact, reliable late-season fruit for cool maritime climates	Very low
6	Mulberry	<i>Morus spp.</i>	Persian, Illinois Everbearing	High	3–6 years	June – July	Many cultivars self-fertile	● Low	Extremely productive; low maintenance	Plant away from patios due to fruit drop	Large dependable yields with minimal intervention	Low–moderate
7	Asian Pear	<i>Pyrus pyrifolia</i>	Kosui, Korean Giant, Shinsui, Kikisui, Shinseiki	High	3–5 years	September	Cross pollination improves yields	● Moderate (fire blight possible)	Crisp fruit; reliable crops	Thin fruit early; maintain airflow	Consistent producer in maritime climates with excellent texture	Low
8	Cornelian Cherry	<i>Cornus mas</i>	Jolico, Elegantly, Red Star	High	4–7 years	Late Aug – Sept	Better with two trees	● Very low	Early pollinator support; hardy	Allow fruit to fully ripen	Ornamental + edible tree that performs reliably in cool climates	Low
9	American Persimmon	<i>Diospyros virginiana</i>	Prok, Yates, Early Golden	Medium–High	4–8 years	Oct – Nov	Usually dioecious. Separate male and female trees exist. Female trees produce fruit and require a nearby male tree for pollination.	● Very low	Distinctive late fruit; durable tree	Plant in warm exposure	Often outperforms Asian persimmons in cool wet climates	Low
10	Shipova	× <i>Sorbopyrus auricularis</i>	'Nordic' is the most commonly propagated named selection. Many shipova trees are still grown from seedlings.	Medium–High	4–7 years	—	Generally self-fertile (nearby pears/shipova can improve set)	● Low–moderate	Unusual hybrid; reliable in cool climates; attractive tree; fruit for fresh eating and preserves; manageable size	Full sun improves quality; allow fruit to soften slightly; airflow reduces disease pressure	Hybrid hardiness + edible fruit where many 'novelty' trees fail to produce.	Low
11	Kousa Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>	Big Apple	High	5–7 years	—	Generally self-fertile (multiple trees can improve yield)	● Low	Edible fruit + strong ornamental value; attractive bark/structure; disease resistant vs <i>C. florida</i>	Full sun for best fruit; protect young trees from drying winds; prefer well-drained soils	Pairs ornamental structure with edible fruit while performing reliably in MNW climates.	Low
12	Japanese Raisin Tree	<i>Hovenia dulcis</i>	Seed-grown trees are most common. Named cultivars are rare.	Medium–High	5–8 years	Sept – Oct	Self-fertile	● Low	Unique edible crop; durable canopy tree	Full sun improves sweetness	Combines edible novelty with long-lived canopy structure	Low–moderate
13	Ginkgo	<i>Ginkgo biloba</i>	Chi Chi: One of the few named female cultivars known to produce seeds.	High	15–25 years	Oct	Dioecious. Separate male and female trees exist. Female trees produce fruit and require a nearby male tree for pollination.	● Extremely low	Legendary durability; edible seeds	Plant in full sun	Long-lived legacy tree with culinary and cultural history	Very low

MEDIUM RELIABILITY — Site-Dependent · Cultivar Choice & Microclimate Critical (12 species)

■ Variable — Site Matters

Tree	Latin Name	Cultivars / Notes	Reliability Notes	Time to Fruit	Ripening (MNW)	Pollination	Disease Pressure	Pros	Field Notes	Pendragon Design Rationale	Invasive Risk	
1	Loquat	<i>Eriobotrya japonica</i>	Seedlings or unnamed nursery selections are common; choose cold-tolerant, early-ripening selections when available.	Medium – grows well, but fruiting is inconsistent because bloom occurs in winter and can be damaged by cold snaps.	3–6 years	April – June (only in favorable years / warm sites)	Self-fertile; better set with another loquat nearby.	● Low	Evergreen structure; winter flowers for pollinators; attractive foliage; occasional spring fruit	Warm, protected exposures; avoid frost pockets; south wall helps; shelter from winter wind; well-drained soil	Evergreen backbone tree with winter bloom and occasional fruit—useful when you want structure first and harvest as a bonus. Increase your fruiting chances with a climate hack such as adding thermal mass around the tree. Tolerant of many soil types and doesn't complain about much at all. They will fruit in MNW given the right conditions.	Low; occasional seedlings possible but not typically aggressive in MNW.
2	Olive	<i>Olea europaea</i>	Cold-tolerant landscape olives (often sold as 'Arbequina', 'Frantoio', 'Leccino' in the trade) perform best as ornamentals; fruiting varies by site.	Medium – tree survival is good; consistent fruiting typically requires more summer heat than most MNW sites provide.	4–8 years	Oct – Dec (rarely to fully cured maturity in MNW)	Many cultivars partially self-fertile; cross-pollination can increase set.	● Low	Evergreen green; drought tolerant once established; strong architectural form; low maintenance	Choose the warmest/driest microclimate; protect young trees in hard freezes; avoid waterlogged winter soils	A climate-edge evergreen that delivers year-round structure; fruit is possible in hot pockets but not the promise. Arbequina is the best option for the MNW. Fruit can set but won't ripen. Other varieties die back in winter but can be grown in pots and overwintered indoors.	Very low.

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MEDIUM RELIABILITY — continued

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3 Pomegranate	<i>Punica granatum</i>	Hardy/early selections when available (often sold as 'Wonderful' type, plus hardy dwarf forms). Expect variability.	Medium — grows well; fruiting and full ripening depend on accumulated heat and a dry fall.	3–5 years	Oct – Nov (often incomplete in cool years)	Self-fertile; more plants can increase yields.	● Low	Spectacular flowers; drought tolerant; ornamental structure; occasional fruit in warm sites	Warm south exposure; excellent drainage; reduce irrigation late season; protect from cold wind	A flower-and-structure tree that can produce fruit in the right pocket—best treated as ornamental-first, edible-second.	Very low.
4 Jujube	<i>Ziziphys jujuba</i>	Early-ripening, sweet cultivars are best (often sold as 'Li', 'Lang', 'Sugar Cane', 'Honey Jar' depending on nursery).	Medium — tree thrives; fruit sweetness and full ripening depend on summer heat and a long fall.	3–5 years (grafted)	Sept – Oct (quality varies by year)	Many cultivars self-fertile; yields improve with another variety.	● Very low	Extremely tough; drought tolerant; low pests; fruit stores well; unique texture	Full sun is non-negotiable; warmest microclimate; minimal summer water once established; protect young trees from wind	A resilient, low-input tree that expands the edible palette. Works best when you can give it heat. Self fertile but crop production increase with partner.	Low; seedlings uncommon.
5 Apricot	<i>Prunus armeniaca</i>	Early/late-blooming, disease-tolerant selections help; local-proven cultivars matter most. (Nursery lists often include 'Puget Gold' regionally.)	Medium — trees grow; crops are inconsistent because bloom is early and rain/frost can reduce set.	3–5 years	July – Aug (when a crop sets)	Many cultivars self-fertile, but a second variety can improve set.	● Moderate (brown rot/canker pressure in wet springs)	Exceptional fruit when it works; early season harvest; compact canopy possible	Airflow and sun; avoid frost pockets; prune for open center; consider rain protection during bloom in high-value sites	A deliberate gamble: worth it in warm, protected locations where you can protect bloom and reduce fungal pressure. Don't crowd, needs airflow to mitigate disease. Puget Gold was developed for our maritime climates.	Very low.
6 Asian Persimmon	<i>Diospyros kaki</i>	Choose early ripening, cool-summer tolerant cultivars; non-astringent types are easiest for fresh use (often sold as 'Fuyu' types).	Medium — trees grow well; ripening is inconsistent in cool summers and late falls.	3–5 years	Oct – Nov (warm sites best)	Many cultivars self-fertile; some set better with pollination.	● Low	Low disease pressure; striking fall fruit display; unique flavor; durable wood	Warm exposure; full sun; avoid cold pockets; thin heavy sets to prevent branch breakage; wet soil and some shade tolerance.	A late-season fruit tree that doubles as ornament—best used where the landscape naturally accumulates heat. Doesn't mind some shade. Not bothered by wet soil.	Very low.
7 Feijoa / Pineapple Guava	<i>Acca sellowiana</i>	Cool-climate hardy selections are best; commonly sold named forms include 'Coolidge' and 'Nazemetz' depending on nursery.	Medium — plants are hardy and ornamental; fruiting is site-dependent and can be inconsistent.	3–5 years	Oct – Nov (variable; fruit may drop underripe)	Partly self-fertile; better fruit set with two cultivars and bee activity.	● Very low	Evergreen hedge/tree; edible flowers; low pests; drought tolerant once established	Full sun; protect from hard freezes; well-drained soil; don't overwater late season. Can be grown in pots.	Evergreen edible structure with bonus fruit—excellent where you want screening plus occasional harvest. Very fragrant.	Low.
8 Hardy Citrus	<i>Citrus spp.</i> (yuzu, sudachi, ichang lemon)	Yuzu and sudachi are common; ichang lemon / ichang papeda hybrids for added cold tolerance.	Medium — survival possible in protected sites; fruiting varies and severe cold can damage wood and crop.	3–6 years (grafted)	Nov – Jan (site-dependent)	Mostly self-fertile; pollinators improve set.	● Low-moderate (scale can appear; root issues if soils stay wet)	Evergreen; winter fragrance; culinary citrus even when fruit is small; unique value in MNW	Pot or in-ground against a south wall; excellent drainage; protect in hard freezes; avoid saturated winter soils. Watch the temps. I've seen many die during cold winters. Plant in a mound.	A high-impact edge-case: tiny harvests can still be worth it because aroma and rind are the product.	Very low.
9 Asian Pear	<i>Pyrus pyrifolia</i>	Choose fire-blight-tolerant cultivars and plant compatible pairs; common types include 'Shinseiki', 'Kosui', 'Hosui' depending on availability.	Medium — can be very good, but fire blight and cool summers make performance cultivar- and site-dependent.	3–5 years	Aug – Sept	Usually requires cross-pollination; some European pears can pollinate if bloom overlaps.	● Moderate (fire blight risk)	Crisp, high-quality fruit; good storage; attractive spring bloom	Airflow matters; avoid excessive nitrogen; prune for light; remove blight strikes promptly; choose resistant cultivars	Worth it for crisp fruit and reliability in good cultivars. Treated as semi-reliable because disease risk is real in wet springs.	Low.
10 Pawpaw	<i>Asimina triloba</i>	Plant multiple cultivars for pollination; common named cultivars include 'Sunflower', 'Shenandoah', 'Susquehanna', 'Overleese'.	Medium — trees grow; pollination and heat for ripening are limiting factors in many MNW sites.	4–7 years	Sept – Oct (often late / variable)	Mostly self-incompatible; needs two cultivars; beetles/flies pollinate (hand pollination improves set).	● Low	Unique tropical flavor; low pests; tolerates partial shade; attractive foliage	Shelter from wind; consistent summer moisture early on; warm site for ripening; hand pollinate if you want crops. Plan on hand pollinating.	A novelty fruit that can succeed in warm pockets. Excellent when you want something no one else grows, with honest yield expectations. Once you've had paw paw ice cream, you'll understand why it's worth the effort.	Very low.
11 Chilean Guava	<i>Ugni molinae</i>	Named selections exist but are uncommon; choose plants from cold-tolerant sources when possible.	Medium — grows in protected MNW gardens; fruiting and winter survival are best in mild, sheltered sites.	2–4 years	Sept – Nov (variable)	Self-fertile; better yields with multiple plants.	● Low	Evergreen; fragrant berries; good hedge candidate; tolerates coastal conditions	Shelter from hard freezes and drying winds; mulch roots; full sun to partial shade; consistent moisture in establishment	A maritime-adapted evergreen edible that feels 'coastal'—best used where protection is built into the site. Highly fragrant.	Low.
12 Fig (most cultivars except Desert King)	<i>Ficus carica</i>	Desert King is Tier 1; other common figs (e.g., Brown Turkey types) often struggle to ripen a main crop in MNW.	Medium — trees grow well; fruiting is cultivar-dependent and main-crop ripening often fails in cool summers.	2–4 years	Breba: July – Aug (if set). Main crop: Sept – Oct (often fails)	Parthenocarpic cultivars set without pollination; fig wasp absent in most MNW.	● Low	Easy to propagate; attractive foliage; can fruit in warm sites; tolerates pruning	Warmest site; south wall; protect from severe freezes; prune for breba wood if cultivar is breba-heavy	A classic coastal edible—use the right cultivar for reliability, otherwise treat harvest as bonus.	Low.