

Persimmon

Planting Specifications



- 12-20' tall
- Species native to either East Asia or America
- American varieties: Garretson, Prok; Asian variety: Ichi-Kei-Ki-Jiro; Hybrid varieties: Nikits's Gift, Rosseyanka
- Can be hard to distinguish ripeness
- Prefer well drained soil, but can perform better in wetter soil than other fruit trees
- American varieties require at least two trees of different varieties for cross pollination

Common Pests and Diseases

Other diseases or pests may be present, but these are the ones most common in St. Louis.

Persimmon Trunk Borer: Bore into the trunk of the persimmon near the soil surface

Treatment: Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, wrapping trunk with window screening, kaolin clay paste painted on the trunk, alliums planted around trunk

Seed St. Louis Recorded Classes and Resources

Holistic Sprays- Recipes and ingredients available to Giving Grove projects

Bt, kaolin clay - Available for purchase from our Gateway Greening store

Orchard Classes- Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Planting, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Available on our YouTube channel.

Companion plant recommendations- Handout available on website.

How to Eat

Persimmons can either be eaten fresh or as an addition to baked dishes. Simply remove the stem and seeds to enjoy as a fresh fruit. The sweet taste and soft texture of persimmons can be comparable to a peach, use persimmons in any way you would use a peach in recipes!

Timeline of Care

Spring Care

- Application of four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (*Late February to Mid-May*)
- Complete the big yearly pruning (*Late February to Mid-March*)
- Remove any tree wraps placed in winter (*Early April*)
- For the first three Springs, remove all fruitlets to prevent fruit production (*Late April to Early May*)

Summer Care

- Remove small fruitlets so there is no more than one fruit ever 5 inches on a branch (*Mid-May to June*)

Fall Care

- Harvest when fruits are ready! (*September through November*)
- While harvesting, remove any mummified fruits and dispose of outside of the orchard to prevent disease spread (*September through November*)
- Remove or shred all fallen leaves to prevent diseases from spreading (*Mid-October to November*)
- Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed of (*November*)
- Install tree wraps to protect trees from rabbits and voles (*Late November*)
- Apply a new layer of mulch to the base of the tree (*November*)

Ongoing Care

- During the first year, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain. After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts
- Weed the mulch ring
- Plant any desired companion plants to benefit the orchard ecosystem (*Spring or Fall*)