



## Easy Edible

### Jujube:

**General info:** Originating in China, the jujube (*Zizyphus jujube*, also called Chinese date) is a round to oblong fruit the size of a plum. It has thin, edible, brownish-red skin and sweet, white flesh. The immature fruit ripens from a green color, to yellow with mahogany colored spots, then to completely brown-red. When the skin is brownish-green, the fruit tastes like a sugary sweet apple. Many people like to eat jujubes when they are in the spotted stage because the texture is crisp. Dehydrated fruit taste similar to dates. Jujubes are high in vitamin C. The plant grows into a graceful, ornamental tree 20-40' tall with naturally drooping branches. It is an easy-care tree.

**Landscape uses:** Specimen plant or hedge.

**Ornamental qualities:** Glossy green leaves in summer; white clusters of blossoms

**Planting:** Can be grown in many types of soil, from clay to sandy. Poor soil is tolerated as long as it's well-drained. Of course, the tree will grow faster in good soil. Plant in full sun.

**Pruning:** Pruning is usually unnecessary, except for cutting off thorny root suckers.

**Fertilizing/Watering:** Drought tolerant once established. Supplemental watering may be needed during dry conditions for best growth. Li and Sugar Cane are both self-fertile, but produce more fruit when cross-pollinated. Minimal fertilizer is needed. (Fertilize during the spring.)

### Varieties:

**Sugar Cane:** The very sweet fruit ripens in late summer to fall. Sugar Cane has attractive shiny leaves. Carefree plant with 150 hours of chilling. Ripe fruits have an apple texture and are usually round to elongated. This plant does have spines, but will prove worth planting when you taste the fruit.

**Li:** This is a crisp, sweet fruit which ripens in September. Fruits are usually dried, candied, and prepared in Asian cuisine. The tree is showy with glossy leaves. Yellow flowers bloom in June, so they escape late frosts. Some people say they smell like grape soda.