



Easy Edible

Pecan:

General info: Pecan trees (*Carya illinoensis*) are a staple of the South and are found in both rural and urban environments. They are native to North America and are grown from Illinois to Florida. Pecan trees can reach 70-100 ft. in height and 40-80 ft. in width. The nuts are heart healthy and high in vitamins and minerals.

Pecan trees often bear on alternating years, and will begin producing within 5-7 years. Cross-pollination results in the best nut production. Successful pollination requires a combination of Type I and Type II trees.

Landscape uses: Shade tree.

Ornamental qualities: Stately form when full grown.

Planting: Plant in well drained soil and full sun. Be sure to give the tree plenty of room to grow and mature. Spacing 40-80 ft. apart is best. Crowding can cause misshaped trees and poor production. Plant the same depth as grown in the nursery. When the hole is half filled, firm the soil with your feet before filling the rest of the way. Pack the soil firmly. Do not leave a depression around the tree. Water well after planting to help eliminate air pockets.

Pruning: Thin any dead or diseased branches as needed.

Fertilizing/Watering: Newly planted trees need about 10-15 gal. of water per week for the first 2 or 3 years. Regular water is important at any age to ensure a good crop production, especially during the nut filling stage (during the first 2 weeks of Sept.). Fertilize in March and again in June. Do not place fertilizer closer than 12" from the trunk.



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Varieties:

Cape Fear: Type I Cape Fear’ produces well-filled nuts with attractive golden kernels as a young tree. A strong plus for ‘Cape Fear’ is good resistance to pecan scab in most locations.

Desirable: Type I A leading variety in the Southeast. A consistent, productive bearer of medium to large size nuts. Noted for good eating quality. It is the most scab-susceptible cultivar, but is often planted because of the high quality of the nuts.

Pawnee: Type I ‘Pawnee’ produces a high-quality nut of medium to large size with a light colored kernel. The most outstanding feature of ‘Pawnee’ is its large nut size combined with very early nut maturity. Scab susceptibility is serious problem. In 2004 and 2005, ‘Pawnee’ trees planted in Tifton showed more nut scab damage than the ‘Desirable’ trees planted next to them.

Elliot: Type II ‘Elliot’ has an extremely high quality, small, teardrop-shaped nut. It bears alternately, but nut quality remains high in the “on” years. High scab resistance makes it a good choice for home orchards. ‘Elliot’ is susceptible to late spring freezes and should not be planted in north Georgia or in low spots. Yellow aphids can be a problem, and young trees are slow to come into production.

Stuart: Type II The most widely planted of all varieties. Good quality, medium size. May take 8-10 years to produce a good crop. Has become susceptible to scab, but it can be controlled.

Sumner: Type II ‘Sumner’ produces large nuts of good quality. Historically, “Sumner” has been resistant to scab, although susceptibility has recently been reported in some locations.