

# Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*)

Oriental Persimmon, Japanese Persimmon or Kaki Persimmon



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Photo: Rosa Hernandorena <https://www.hernandorena.com>

# Persimmon

- Moderate to high commercial potential
- Direct-to-consumer potential, \$1.50 - 3.00/fruit
- Good potential for direct marketing and possibly exports (e.g., Canada)
- Value-added – baked goods (cookies, cakes, etc.), custards, ice cream, preserves, puddings, etc.



# Varieties

## Classification

**-Astringent:** A taste that puckers the mouth, numbs the tongue, and constricts the throat. This taste is caused by astringent substances such as tannins. Fruit can be eaten when are soft.

**-Nonastringent:** Fruit lose astringency while still hard. Fruit can be eaten when are hard or soft.

**Resource: Japanese  
Persimmon Cultivars in  
Florida**

[https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/  
pdf/MG/MG24200.pdf](https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/MG/MG24200.pdf)



# Varieties

## Fruit shape



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# Varieties

What variety and how many different varieties should I plant?

**Nonstringent**: 'Izu', early season; 'Jiro' and 'Matsumoto Wase Fuyu', mid-season; and 'Fuyu', late season.

**Astringent**: 'Nishumura Wase', 'Saijo', 'Tanenashi', 'Yamato Hyakume', 'Sheng', 'Ormond', 'Hachiya', etc.



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# 'Fuyu'

- Fruit size is medium
- Soluble solids average 18%
- Fruit shape is oblate
- Harvest season is late October thru November



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Photo: Ali Sarkhosh

# 'Jiro'

- Fruit size is medium-large
- Soluble solids average 17%
- Fruit shape is oblate
- Harvest season is late September thru mid-November



**Resource: Japanese Persimmon Cultivars in Florida**

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/MG/MG24200.pdf>

Photo: Edible Landscaping LLC

# 'Matsumoto Wase Fuyu'

- Produces heavy clustered crops
- Soluble solids average 17%
- Fruit are medium in size and oblate in shape.



**Resource: Japanese Persimmon Cultivars in Florida**

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/MG/MG24200.pdf>

Photo: Edible Landscaping LLC



# 'Hachiya'

- Fruit size is medium-large
- Soluble solids average 17 to 19%
- Remains astringent until fully ripened and soft
- Mostly used for drying in Japan



**Resource: Japanese Persimmon Cultivars in Florida**

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/MG/MG24200.pdf>

Photo: Ali Sarkhosh

# Rootstock

- American persimmon, *D. virginiana*, is the recommended rootstock for southern states due to its adaptability to different soil types



**Resource: Japanese Persimmon Cultural Practices in Florida**

<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/HS/HS138900.pdf>

# Soil

- Wide range of soil types
- Deep well-drained soil (pH 6-7)
- Sensitive to salinity



# Irrigation and Fertilizer

- Frequent irrigation (2 to 4 times per week) is required after planting
- Fertilization plan with 3 applications is recommended, with 50% applied in March and 25% each in June and August
- NPK, 12-4-8 plus trace elements
- 1lb/tree in the first year, add 0.75 lb to the amount of year before



# Planting

- Bare-root trees from December through February
- Pot trees anytime during the year, March to May - the best time



# Tree Spacing

- 15 ft (4.5 m) between trees and 20 ft (6 m) between rows



# Training

- Modified Central Leader
- Open-center or Vase
- Palmette

The goal is to have 4-6 well-spaced branches radiating from the trunk



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# Pruning

- When the main structural branches are in place, some are lightly pruned and tipped each season to stimulate more branching, while others are left unpruned



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Photo: Rosa Hernandorena <https://www.hernandorena.com>



# Flowering

- On current season's growth several weeks after vegetative bud break



# Flowering – Pollination

- Persimmons can set modest crops parthenocarpically (without fertilization)
- Pollinizer tree in the planting will provide maximum yield
- Ratio of 1:15 (pollinizer to main variety)
- Pollinizer - 'Gailey' and 'Nishimura'



# Fruit



# Harvest and Postharvest

- Varies by variety - from August through December
- Firm, beginning in the yellow/orange phase through full color
- Clip the fruit from the tree to prevent damage to the fruit
- Shelf life can be prolonged to 2 months in 32 °F storage, and up to 6 months in controlled atmosphere conditions



# Fruit Drop

- Previous season crop load
- Pollination
- Water and nutrient excesses
- Lack of light infiltration into the canopy



## Diseases

- **Botryosphaeria canker**
- **Leaf and fruit spots**  
(*Cercospora*, *Alternaria*, *Gloeosporium*)
- **Persimmon wilt**  
(*Cephalosporium diospyri*)

## Insect Pests

- **Scales**
- **Persimmon psylla**
- **Stinkbugs**
- **Tree borers**
- **Twig girdler**
- **Thrips**
- **Caterpillars**

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# Challenges for Persimmon Production

- Low demand for astringent types
- *Botryosphaeria* is the major limitation
- Marketing and consumer education
- Risk of production due to fruiting season/competition from other states



# Resources

- **Japanese Persimmon Cultural Practices in Florida**  
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- **Japanese Persimmon Cultivars in Florida**  
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/MG/MG24200.pdf>
- **Sustainability Assessment of Fruit and Nut Crops in North Florida and North Central Florida**  
<https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/MG367>

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