**A NATURAL FARM & EDUCATIONAL CENTER**

**WINTER 2015-2016**

**Grow Persimmons Naturally!**

**COMMON PRACTICES FOR ALL TREES**

* LIGHT REQUIREMENT : Full sun for maximum fruit production
* FERTILIZATION : Apply organic fertilizer (We use composted turkey manure & worm castings) 3 times a year by spreading evenly below the tree canopy

First application: January/February when trees are still dormant at rate of 1 lb per tree for young trees and 3 lb for trees 3 years and older

Second application: June at ½ lb per tree for young trees and 1.5 lb for trees 3 years and older

Third application: September at same rate as 2nd application

* SPACING : 15’ x 15’ (or 8’ x 15’ for High density plantings)

**Persimmons**

Mature trees can produce up to 250 fruits per year but usually alternate a heavy fruiting year & a lighter fruiting year.

VARIETIES (see variety sheet)

Non-astringent varieties seem to do better in North/Central Fla & astringent varieties better in South Fla. Astringent fruits have to be eaten soft to be good and non-astringent can be eaten firm. Softening & astringency removal can be done by freezing or drying the fruits.

PRUNING

The main pruning is done in the winter when the trees are dormant and its goal is to maintain a round canopy, remove cross branching and rejuvenate the trees every year in order to produce more fruits. Fruits will come out of the last few buds on a twig.

Another pruning can be done in the summer to thin the canopy and allow more light penetration

FRUIT THINNING

It is recommended to only keep 1 to 4 fruits per shoot. It will allow the tree to have enough energy to make those fruits bigger and also be able to carry those fruits without breaking the twigs.

INSECTS & DISEASES

There are no major insects or disease to worry about in Central Florida. Some hard scales may be present on the trunks and branches and can be killed by spraying neem oil in the winter during dormancy.

**NON ASTRINGENT PERSIMMONS**

Fuyu- the most popular of all the persimmons we grow. A consistent producer of medium-sized (41/2 - 6 ounce fruit). The fruit is crisp, sweet and mild and usually starts ripening around the first week of October and continues through mid-November. The trees are vigorous growers that can reach a height of 15 feet. Zones 7-9.

Matsumoto-Wase-Fuyu- very much like the Fuyu except it ripens about two weeks ahead of Fuyu, usually about mid-September. Consistently heavy bearer. Zones 7-9.

Giant Fuyu- Very large reddish-orange fruit. Tree is vigorous but only grows to about 12 feet. It is a dependable bearer. Ripens late September and October. Zones 7-9

Hana Fuyu- A large reddish-orange fruit that is squarish (4-lobed) and slightly flattened. Very sweet and crispy. Not a large grower (about 10 feet). Ripens mid-October. Zones 7-9.

Ichi-Ki-Kei-Jiro- tree is a dwarf grower (10-12 feet) that produces a large, 4-lobed, slightly flattened, deep orange fruit that ripens in mid to late October. Zones 6-9.

Maekawa-Jiro- one of the best-tasting persimmons. Fruit is large, 4-lobed,slightly flattened- similar to other Jiro types. Fruit ripens mid-October to mid-November. Semi-dwarf tree (10-12 feet). Zones 7-9.

Jiro- Considered one of the most cold-hardy non astringent persimmons. Fruit is large, 4-lobed, slightly flattened and a beautiful orange red color. Trees are more upright compared to the other Jiro types. Fruit ripens mid-October to mid-November. Zones 6-9.

**ASTRINGENT PERSIMMONS**

Chocolate- Chocolate persimmon is a small to medium size oblong fruit with bright red skin. Sweet, spicy brown flesh with superb flavor. Tree will grow to 12-15 feet. Ripens late October through November. Zones 7-10.

Giombo- The fruit of Giombo is large- much like Hachiya. Fruit has a smooth texture and is very sweet much like the Saijo persimmon. Tree will grow more than 15 feet. Ripens mid-October through November. Zones 7-9.

Great Wall- A very cold-tolerant variety from China. Trees have a tall, pointed shape with good fall color. The fruit is tomato shaped, sunset orange with thick, rich flavor. Fruit ripens late September through October. Zones 6-9.

Hachiya- Hachiya bears fruit that is rated as one of the best in the world for flavor and quality. The fruit have a jelly-like consistency, sweet and spicy flavor and are probably the most popular astringent persimmon on the market. The fruit is large, deep red that can weigh a pound or more. Ripens mid-October through late November. Zones 7-9.

Saijo- Saijo fruits are oblong (11/2-2 inch long x1 inch diameter) orange and very sweet. Saijo persimmon trees are vigorous, upright growers that can grow to 20-25 feet. Fruit ripens mid-September through mid-October. Zones7-9

Tanenashi-Tanenashi trees are medium-sized (12-15feet) vigorous growers that consistently produce a good crop of medium to large cone-shaped orange –red fruit. The flesh is yellow when ripe and has a dry texture, which some people prefer. Probably has the best name-recognition of all astringents. Ripens early October into November. Zones 7-9.

Nikita’s Gift- A hybrid of Russian and American persimmons. Fruit is 2-3 inch reddish-orange and exceptionally sweet when ripe. Fruit ripens late October through November. Zones 6-9.

Visit us at:

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