

Whether you choose peach, apple, pear, or plum, fruit trees are relatively easy to grow, providing certain conditions are present. Once planted, the trees offer years of delicious harvests with a minimum of care. Good planning is important. Fruit trees are somewhat fussy when it comes to location, temperature, and wind. Lingering frosts can wreck tender buds, and sudden thaws can trigger premature growth.

If possible, keep the family orchard near the house to discourage nibbling rodents. They can seriously injure bark. The trees will be close at hand, too, making spraying and other maintenance simpler. If high winds whistle constantly through the backyard, you might want to plant a windbreak of evergreens to protect fruit trees from winterkill.