



JUJUBE
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INTRODUCTION

Never heard of a jujube? Join the crowd. This delectable native of China has been cultivated for over 4,000 years. The small fruit most closely resembles a date when dried. Fresh jujube are crisp, with a sweet apple-like flavor. The fruit can be enjoyed fresh, dried or candied. Jujubes are one of the easiest, most problem-free fruits you can grow - they are best described as indestructible. They love hot dry areas with poor soil. A little care will go a long way with this tree. All jujubes are self pollinating.

USES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Jujube will grow to approximately 30-40 feet tall. The trees favor a river willow, with shiny, emerald green leaves. Spring brings chains of small fragrant yellow flowers. Jujube grow into a graceful shade tree all summer long and in the fall, the leaves turn a rich yellow before dropping.

Try a jujube as focal point in your landscape. Put one where you'll want summer shade and where you can smell the fragrance as you enter the garden. Add a hedge of blueberries for contrast. Tie it all together with a lush ground cover of strawberries for a never-ending cycle of flowers, fruit and fall color.

PLANTING AND CULTURE

SITE SELECTION

Well-drained sandy soils are preferred, but jujubes will grow on many soil types if good drainage is provided. Trees will grow more vigorously and produce more fruit in full sun.

SOIL PREPARATION AND PLANTING

Jujubes prefer slightly acid soil (pH 5.5-6.5), but soils of up to moderate alkalinity are readily tolerated. If you are in doubt about the acidity of your soil, take a soil sample to the Cooperative Extension Agent in your county for a soil test.

Dig a planting hole approximately twice as big as the pot and twice as deep. Enrich the planting hole with peat moss, compost or pine bark mixed with soil dug from the hole (50:50 mix). Remove the jujube from the pot, gently loosen the root ball and place in the planting hole. The jujube should be planted **at or slightly above** the same level at which it grew in its pot. Fill the planting hole with the mix of soil and organic matter; gently tamp it in. Water thoroughly to settle the roots and eliminate air pockets. Do NOT put fertilizer in the planting hole. Only apply fertilizer if it is the correct time of year (see Fertilization section below).

If desired, construct a water basin around the base of the tree approximately 36 inches in diameter. Mulch in spring and summer with approximately 4-6 inches of mulch.

FERTILIZATION

We use and recommend the Espoma line of organic fertilizers. Espoma's Citrus Tone is a good choice for jujube trees. When not available look for an organic mix that contains an analyst of roughly 5-2-6. Make sure they contain iron, zinc, manganese, magnesium, molybdenum, copper and boron. These minor elements are very important to plants and most soils are low in these elements. Application rates vary according to type and age of plant, so read the instructions on the bag and fertilize accordingly. Be sure to spread the fertilizer evenly under the entire canopy of the plant avoiding a 2-inch area around the trunk. Water or rake in. For Zones 8a-10, fertilize 3 times each year in February, May and late July/early August. For plants further north (Zones 6-7), fertilize 2 times each year in March and June/July. Never fertilize after August (July in Zones 6-7) as this will promote new growth when the plant needs to go dormant.

WATER

The first year is a critical time for the establishment of a new jujube. Water thoroughly twice a week on light soils and once a week on clay soils. Soak the entire root system deeply. Jujubes should receive at least 1 inch of water each week for best growth and fruit production, but established trees are extremely drought resistant.

PRUNING AND CARE

Jujubes require little pruning. Remove dead and damaged wood when appropriate. Jujubes are essentially free from pests and diseases.

VARIETY LIST - FOR MORE VARIETIES GO TO OUR WEBSITE

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AUTUMN BEAUTY- Extremely large 2 ½ inch fruit . Very sweet with a spicy apple like flavor. Trees are small grower easily fitting into patio plantings and other tight places.

GA-866- Shiny plump reddish-brown fruit is 1.5-2 inches long, with a sugar content higher than in other jujube varieties, and a sweet apple-like flavor. Can be candied and dried, eaten fresh, or cooked in a variety of ways. Fruit ripens in mid- to late September.

SHERWOOD - Bell-shaped fruit about 1 1/2 inches in diameter. Grows to 25 feet. Ripens in September to a light mahogany color with a sweet maple syrup-flavored white flesh.

TIGERTOOTH - Long and thin, Tigertooth looks just like dates ripening on the tree. Harvest when crinkly brown and dry or pack in a jar filled with honey for a delicious winter candy.