

Just
the
FACTS



POMEGRANATE

JUST FRUITS & EXOTICS

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INTRODUCTION

Pomegranate juice is a true delicacy, with a flavor that is a cross between strawberries and raspberries. It's great by itself with a little sugar and shaved ice. It can also be made into jelly or a fantastic fruit wine. There's a tasty reason pomegranates were called the nectar of the gods.

USES IN THE LANDSCAPE

Pomegranates grow to approximately 12-15 feet tall. The attractive shrubby plants are deciduous, and have glossy dark green leaves. Flowers are flaming orange-red, and may grow singly or in clumps. Add a pomegranate to your shrubbery border or as a fruitful hedge. Pomegranates are self-pollinating, so you can plant only one if you wish. For a hedge, plant 6-9 feet apart and let suckers fill in the gaps.

PLANTING AND CULTURE

SITE SELECTION

Well-drained, sandy loam soils are preferred, but pomegranates will grow on many soil types if good drainage is provided. Pomegranates will grow more vigorously and produce more fruit in full sun. Avoid frost pockets - trees may be damaged by unseasonable frosts.

SOIL PREPARATION AND PLANTING

Pomegranates prefer alkaline soil (pH 6.5 to 7.0 or higher). 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. Adjust soil pH as necessary.

Dig a planting hole approximately three times the width of the pot and at the same depth as the root ball. Set that soil aside and mix it 50/50 with either aged mushroom compost, aged manure, or rotted pine bark & aged manure/compost. Remove the plant from the pot, gently loosen the root ball and place in the planting hole. To avoid burying too deep, make sure plant is positioned with the top most roots at the soil line. 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. Pull mulch a couple of inches away from the trunk for good air circulation.

FERTILIZATION

We use and recommend the Espoma line of organic fertilizers. Espoma's Citrus Tone is a good choice for pomegranate 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. Spread the fertilizer evenly under the entire canopy of the plant. Water or rake in. For Zones 8a-10, fertilize 3 times each year in February, May and late July. **Never fertilize after August** as this will promote new growth late in the year which will be subject to freeze damage.

WATER

The first year is a critical time for the establishment of a new pomegranate. Water thoroughly twice a week on light soils and once a week on clay soils. Soak the entire root system deeply - this usually takes 40-50 minutes. Pomegranates should receive at least 1 inch of water each week for best growth and fruit production. Water regularly, especially during dry periods. Fruit may drop prematurely if insufficiently irrigated during dry spells.

PRUNING AND CARE

Pomegranates tend to be bushy and sucker from the root. Fruit wood is formed on older wood so it is wise to choose 4 to 6 well spaced out suckers to train into trunks and remove any new suckers as they emerge through out the summer. Prune out crossing and crowded branches to maintain light within the canopy. Pomegranates are best pruned in early spring rather than winter to remove freeze damaged and dead wood. If trunks are heavily damaged to freezes remove and replace with a newly emerging sucker in the summer.

Pomegranates have few pests and diseases. Mites can be controlled with sulfur dust in June while scale insects can be controlled with dormant oil during winter when leaves are not present. A neutral liquid copper spray controls leaf spot.

VARIETY LIST - ALL POMEGRANATES ARE SELF POLLINATING.

CHRISTINA This variety was found growing in Port St. Joe Florida by Bill Mahan. It is a beautiful, deep red-skinned pomegranate, with pale pink seeds and very juicy. One of the few pomegranates we have seen to bear heavily in the humid south. Very cold hardy.

GAINNEY SWEET Heirloom from the Gainey family, excellent sweet flavor. Good producer.

GAINNEY SOUR Reliable fruiter with good quality fruit for making sauces and marinades.

LARKIN An heirloom from Marianna, Florida. This one fruits reliably and is sweeter than WONDERFUL and tarter than CHRISTINA. A great gift from another great customer.

RUSSIAN #8 This one has a strange name as the donor who brought us the cuttings lost the name tag! The mother tree came from Russia and was the 8th one in the row, so Russian #8 was born. It's a large pomegranate and the sweetest one we carry.

SHARI'S Another gift from a great customer, Shari's has a tart flavor and ripens from August into October. Juicy red seeds and a deep orange skin.

WONDERFUL Old fashioned variety - the one most commonly carried in grocery stores. Ruby red fruit with deep pink seeds. Tangy sweet flavor.