



BRAZORIA COUNTY
MASTER GARDENER ASSOCIATION
21017 CR 171
Angleton, TX 77515



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For Immediate Release:

**Master Gardeners Plan
Fruit, Citrus Tree Sale**

February is the perfect time to plant fruit trees. So, look around your yard. Locate a sunny, spacious site. Then choose from among 16 varieties of trees being offered at the Brazoria County Master Gardener Fruit and Citrus Tree Sale on Saturday, February 17, from 8 a.m. to noon, at the Master Gardener Education Station, Hospital Drive at County Road 171 in Angleton.

From figs and peaches to grapefruits and limes, home fruit and citrus growers agree: nothing grown in the garden offers a better return on your effort. With proper care, a single peach tree can easily produce a bushel of fruit – or about 50 pounds – by the fourth year. In its first year of production, a grapefruit tree can exceed 25 pounds per tree and around 250 pounds or more by the tenth season. That’s a substantial yield for the average family to consume, with plenty more to share.

The thought of a backyard orchard may prompt many to start planting right now, especially at a time when consumers are paying top dollar for whatever citrus escaped California’s recent freeze. But, “be careful,” warns Gil Livanec, certified Master Gardener and sale chairman.

“Many of the fruit and citrus trees you find at the big retail garden centers may not be varieties that are recommended for this area and wind up doing poorly,” said Livanec. “Invest instead in winners that grow well in Brazoria County. Success begins with the varieties we’ll be selling.”

Growing fruit and citrus requires some physical labor and routine maintenance. As for instructions, a large

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Some varieties best adapted to Texas Gulf Coast growing conditions and available at the sale:

Tropic Snow Peach
Earligrande Peach
Rio Red Grapefruit
Ruby Red Grapefruit
Bloomsweet Grapefruit
Golden Grapefruit
Improved Meyer Lemon
Mexican Lime
Republic of Texas Orange
Navel Orange
Brown Select Satsuma
Owari Satsuma
LSU Purple Fig
Celeste Fig
Texas Everbearing Fig
Sweet Kumquat

group of certified Masters Gardeners will be on hand to provide detailed information on site selection and preparation, planting techniques, and general care. “And, if our customers have questions days or even months down the line, there’s always a Master Gardener available by phone every Tuesday and Friday morning from 8 until noon,” said Livanec.

Sale items range in price from \$5-\$30. The citrus, grafted on Trifoliata rootstock (essential for this area), will be available in three gallon pots. Fruit trees will average 4-5 feet in height. A plentiful selection of Himrod White and Flame Red seedless grapes along with Brison, Rosebrough, and the new thornless Quachita blackberries will also be sold.

“Come early,” advises Livanec. “It’s our first sale of this kind in Brazoria County. But, based on the fruit tree sales experience of the Houston, Galveston and Ft. Bend Master Gardeners, everything will probably be sold within the first hour.”

In addition to the sale, the new Master Gardener Education Station, a combination greenhouse and demonstration garden area, will be open to the public for viewing until noon. The Education Station and surrounding land, formerly the Texas A&M experimental facility, is now managed by Brazoria County. All profits from the sale will be used for improvement and expansion of the Education Station by the Brazoria County Master Gardener Association, a not-for-profit group.

For more information on the sale, or to get gardening advice from an experienced Master Gardener, call 979-864-1558 (Angleton area), 979-388-1558 (West Columbia area), or 979-756-1558 (Alvin area), and ask for extension 112.

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