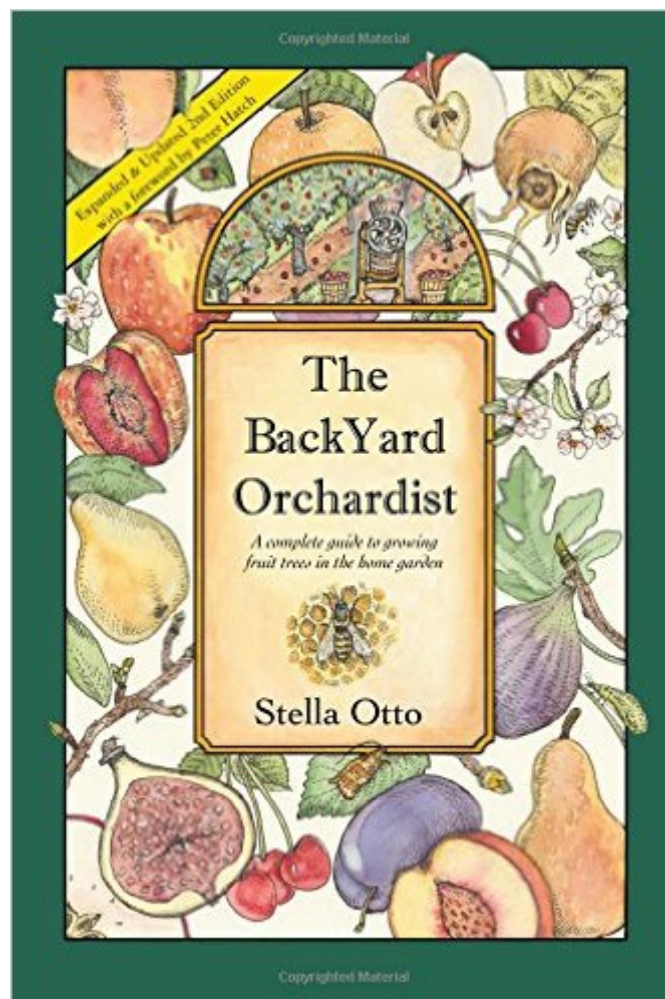


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# The Backyard Orchardist: A Complete Guide To Growing Fruit Trees In The Home Garden, 2nd Edition



## Synopsis

For novice and experienced fruit gardeners alike, *The Backyard Orchardist: A complete guide to growing fruit trees in the home garden* has been the go-to book for home orchardists for over 2 decades. This expanded and updated edition--organized into 6 easy-to-follow sections--offers even more hands-on horticulture. Award-winning author Stella Otto starts by systematically guiding readers through the all-important first steps of planning and planting the home orchard. Learn to:

- evaluate and build healthy soil
- choose the best planting site
- select fruit trees that are easy to grow and appropriate for your climate

Become familiar with the growing requirements of popular temperate zone tree fruit: the pome fruitâ •apples, pears, Asian pears, quince, and the novelty medlar --and stone fruitâ •cherries, apricots, plums, their new hybrid pluots and apriums, peaches and nectarines. In-depth chapters on each fruit offer recommendations on:

- disease-resistant varieties to save you time and reduce unnecessary spraying
- size controlling rootstocks choices for smaller spaces
- compatible varieties to achieve proper cross-pollination that leads to a bountiful harvest

For urban gardeners in apartments, condos, and small lots, Otto walks you through the essentials of container growing and even how to winterize figs and other potted fruit trees. Horticultural fundamentals are simplified into practical techniques for ongoing care and maintenance of a thriving orchard. Gain understanding of soil biology and how nutrient availability impacts the tree. Master how to prune with precision, including the when, how, and why of pruning and its importance to tree health and disease prevention. Water with confidence: learn when why, and how much. The pests and disease sections are extensively illustrated to help with identification. Control solutions, both biological and synthetic have expanded greatly since the original edition, offering the gardener numerous choices based on their individual situation. Harvest hints, use, and storage recommendations help you enjoy your fruit at its peak flavor or preserve it for the off-season. A seasonal to-do calendar, resource list, additional reading suggestions, glossary, illustrations, charts, and an index put all you need to know at your fingertips.

## Book Information

Paperback: 320 pages

Publisher: Ottographics; 2nd ed. edition (November 23, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0963452045

ISBN-13: 978-0963452047

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.7 x 8.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (79 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #39,511 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #4 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Trees](#) #11 in [Books > Science & Math > Agricultural Sciences > Horticulture](#) #15 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Fruit](#)

## Customer Reviews

If you have found it difficult to move beyond dreaming about a backyard orchard, this book is such a powerhouse of information that you will confidently plant a pair of fruit trees knowing that they will not drown, succumb to drought or disease, and not be defoliated by Japanese beetles. You'll even know how to prune them so that the branches grow outward rather than straight up, thus allowing in the sunlight needed to ripen your fruit. Consider the chapters below, which the author has divided into 6 sections:

Section 1: Getting started with fruit trees, includes chapters on fitting them into your landscape, selecting the right site by paying attention to climate, average minimum temperatures and hardiness, length of growing season, soil, moisture, sunlight, and space required. Did you know that cherry trees cannot have wet roots for longer than 24 hours or they will release cyanide and kill themselves? So cherry trees should be planted on a slope or hill with good drainage.

Section 2: Fruit fundamental - growth habits of specific fruit trees includes chapters on Pome fruit (apples and pears) and Stone fruit (sweet & tart cherries, apricots, plums, aprium, pluots, peaches and nectarines).

Section 3: Caring for your fruit trees includes chapters on nutrition and fertilizers, pruning, growing fruit trees in containers (so you can bring in, say, a fig tree inside for the winter), and flowering, fruiting, and thinning (many fruit trees will produce too many fruits and either their branches will break or the fruit will be very small, so you must thin the fruit on them).

Section 4: Pests and Disease has chapters on insect pests, disease identification, insect and disease controls, and wildlife pests.

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