



EDIBLE  
GARDENING  
SERIES

# Persimmon

Generally grow to be about 15 feet tall and wide, but can be kept shorter with selective pruning. They have beautiful green foliage which turns dramatic shades of yellow, orange & red in the fall. They are hardy to 0°F to 15°F.

There are two types of persimmons:

## Astringent

Fruit must be jelly soft before it is fit to eat. Harvest when fruit is hard but full colored. They will ripen off tree stored at room temperature. They can be stored in the refrigerator for at least 1 month and can be frozen for 6 to 8 months.

## Non-Astringent

Fruit is eaten when it is crisp, like an apple. Harvest when they are fully colored. But, for best flavor allow them to soften slightly.

## PLANTING

When planting your persimmon we recommend: **Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost**, **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer** and **Bonide Root n Grow**. See our **Planting Guide** for more information.

Don't worry if your persimmon is slow to leaf because persimmons break dormancy based on heat units, not chilling requirements. Many newly planted persimmon trees do not come out of dormancy the first season in a cool spring & summer or even fall. To induce growth keep your potted tree in a warm place until it starts leafing out.

If you dig it out thinking it is dead, its skinny black roots will convince you! Just be patient.

## FERTILIZING

We recommend **Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer**. Apply in February, May and July. Do not use high nitrogen fertilizer as it can cause leaf & fruit drop.

## POLLINATION

Persimmon are usually self-fertile.

## PRUNING

Light thinning & heading back excessively vigorous growth. Persimmons flower and bear fruit on the current seasons growth.

## WATERING

Summer watering is recommended. With watering fruits will become larger and of higher quality. Drought or lack of water causes leaves and fruit to drop.

## HARVESTING

Harvest October to November. Persimmon fruit should be cut off trees with hand pruners. Cut stems as close to the fruit as possible. They bruise easily so handle with care.

## USES

Persimmons can be eaten fresh, used in cooking or dried.

### CHECK LIST

- Persimmon Tree(s)
- Organic Soil Building Compost
- Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer
- Bonide Root n Grow

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