



# Caring For Persimmons



## Choosing a Site:

Persimmons need a full sun location with some air movement. They can also tolerate partial shade. Persimmons can grow in a wide variety of soils as long as the soil is well drained. Persimmons are virtually free of any diseases and pests, making them one of the best for gardeners who don't have the time or desire to spray.

## Planting:

Because Persimmons have a long tap root it is necessary to dig a deeper hole. Soils should be amended with compost if drainage is a problem in the area. Persimmons do react to nitrogen based fertilizers. Apply a well balanced slow release fertilizer, like Down to Earth All Purpose or Espoma Tree-tone to the soil during the initial planting. Fertilizer can be applied every spring.

To prevent sunscald, paint the trunk with a white latex paint slightly diluted with water from the soil line to the lowest branches.

## Pruning:

Persimmons need very little pruning. The only reason for pruning is to keep the tree manageable and to remove dead wood. Prune young trees to create a stable structure with wide crotches. Persimmons can also be trained to be an espalier tree.

## Harvesting:

When ripe, the fruit stays strongly attached to the tree. To harvest the fruit, the stems should be cut with shears. Fruits are generally picked with the fruit is firm-ripe. The fruit can be left on the tree to become softer, if the birds don't get them first.

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