Persimmon

**Planting Specifications**

- 12–20’ tall
- Species native to either East Asia or America
- American varieties: Garretson, Prok; Asian variety: Ichi-Kei-Ki-Jiro; Hybrid varieties: Nikits’s Gift, Rosseyanka
- Can be hard to distinguish ripeness
- Prefer well drained soil, but can perform better in wetter soil than other fruit trees
- American varieties require at least two trees of different varieties for cross pollination

**Common Pests and Diseases**

Other diseases or pests may be present, but these are the ones most common in St. Louis.

**Persimmon Trunk Borer:** Bore into the trunk of the persimmon near the soil surface

*Treatment:* Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, wrapping trunk with window screening, kaolin clay paste painted on the trunk, alliums planted around trunk

**Gateway Greening Classes and Resources**

**Holistic Sprays**—Recipes and ingredients available to Giving Grove projects

**Bt, kaolin clay**—Available for purchase from our Gateway Greening store

**Orchard Classes**—Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Planting, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Schedules available on our website and Facebook page

**Companion plant recommendations**—handout available on website

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**How to Eat**

Persimmons can either be eaten fresh or as an addition to baked dishes. Simply remove the stem and seeds to enjoy as a fresh fruit. The sweet taste and soft texture of persimmons can be comparable to a peach, use persimmons in any way you would use a peach in recipes!

**Timeline of Care**

**Spring Care**

- Application of four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (*Late February to Mid-May*)
- Complete the big yearly pruning (*Late February to Mid-March*)
- Remove any tree wraps placed in winter (*Early April*)
- For the first three Springs, remove all fruitlets to prevent fruit production (*Late April to Early May*)

**Summer Care**

- Remove small fruitlets so there is no more than one fruit ever 5 inches on a branch (*Mid-May to June*)

**Fall Care**

- Harvest when fruits are ready! (*September through November*)
- While harvesting, remove any mummified fruits and dispose of outside of the orchard to prevent disease spread (*September through November*)
- Remove or shred all fallen leaves to prevent diseases from spreading (*Mid-October to November*)
- Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed of (*November*)
- Install tree wraps to protect trees from rabbits and voles (*Late November*)
- Apply a new layer of mulch to the base of the tree (*November*)

**Ongoing Care**

- During the first year, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain. After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts
- Weed the mulch ring
- Plant any desired companion plants to benefit the orchard ecosystem (*Spring or Fall*)