



Urban Harvest
Gardening for good.

Jujube

These spindly trees are upright and lose their leaves in winter. Plant where you can mow around them, as they will reproduce more trees through root suckers if not kept in check.

Care of Jujube Trees

Planting: Plant during the winter when you purchase the tree (January to early July). Plant in full sun with good drainage. Dig a hole that is wide and deep enough to accommodate the root system. Spread the roots out. The graft, where the tree was grafted onto a hardy disease resistant variety, should be a couple of inches above the soil when you finish planting. Use existing soil only – no amendments. Water in well, and water every day for a few days unless it rains.. They are very upright, so they can be planted 4' or 5' from each other.

Care: These trees have no problem with freezes. drained after a rain or watering. So, a large sunny spot with good drainage is best.

Watering: Like all fruit, make sure jujubes get consistent water in the first few years. Watering can come from rain or a hose. During the first year, provide the tree with about 7 gallons of water per week, preferably once a week and water slowly. This will be a little more than 3 minutes with a ½" hose and 1 ½ minutes with a 5/8" hose. Remember to account for rainfall when determining how much to water with a hose.

Harvesting: They will start producing in 3 or 4 years, and the production can be very heavy. They are ready when they start to change color from lime green to a rust color.

Harvest Tips

- Pick fruit in the early morning. Wash and remove stems. Discard any with soft spots.
- Place fruit in a large pot and add water to cover – place a plate on top to prevent fruit from floating.
- Boil until just tender, remove from heat. Pour off liquid and rinse the fruit.
- Cut fruit in half and scoop out seeds.
- Add ½ cup sugar to a quart of sliced fruit and 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon. Stir together carefully.
- Put back on stove on low heat until sugar is melted and covers the fruit. Remove and let cool.
- Place fruit on a rack and dehydrate at once in a very low oven or in a dehydrator.
- Do not overdry jujubes – they should be like soft prunes.



-Place in a quart plastic bag and freeze. They will keep in the refrigerator for a few days, but will mold if left out at room temperature.

-For a treat, toast a pecan and wrap a jujube around it.

Fertilize: with a couple of cups of cottonseed meal or other organic fertilizer in late February or early March.

Pollination: It is best to have a pollinator, so buy two trees or later find graft wood from someone's existing tree and graft onto your tree.

Varieties of Jujubes for the Houston Area Climate

GA866 New variety with outstanding quality. The fruit is large (1.1/2" – 2"), elongated, and very high in sugar content. Has a sweet apple flavor that is wonderful when eaten fresh and is excellent candied or dried. Attractive, glossy leaves; very drought tolerant. The fruit ripens in September. Hardy to -10° F. Self-fertile. **150 chill hours.**

Li This fruit is almost round and 3-4 inches long. Round-shaped fruits are larger than Lang. Reddish-brown, dry and wrinkled, sweet and chewy (like dates) when fully ripe in early fall. Attractive, easy-to-grow tree: hardy, drought-resistant, virtually pest and disease free. Requires long, hot summer. Very low chilling requirement. The trees are cold hardy to Ohio. Zones 5-10. Partly self-fruitful, or pollinized by Lang. Some people like to eat this cultivar green straight off the tree, but most prefer to pick the fruit when amber spots appear, or even wait until the fruit is completely brown. The fruit ripens well on a kitchen counter or in the refrigerator.

Sugarcane Small to medium fruit which can be round or elongated. Extremely sweet fruit on a very spiny plant. The fruit is worth the spines! A very popular jujube because of its sweet apple-like flavor. Medium-sized fruit is round to slightly elongated. Ripens mid to late September. Partly self-fruitful. **150 chill hours.**

Lang Pear-shaped fruits are reddish-brown, dry, wrinkled, sweet and chewy (like dates) when fully ripe in early fall. Attractive, easy-to-grow tree: hardy, drought-resistant, virtually pest and disease free. Requires long, hot summer. Very low chilling requirement. Pollinized by Li.

© Urban Harvest, Inc.

2311 Canal Street, Suite 200, Houston, Texas 77003, 713.880.5540, urbanharvest.org