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Starting up community orchards and fruit gardens

Sources of further information and inspiration for projects in Scotland

Central Core Orchard Network - Organises events and provides information, including grants for school and community groups in Tayside www.centralcoreorchardnetwork.co.uk

Common Ground - Publications include 'The Community Orchard Handbook'. Covers examples of community orchards, many aspects of getting started, and managing trees, wildlife and produce. Also celebrations, legal structures, model constitution, draft tenancy agreement, contacts and resources. www.commonground.org.uk

The Commonwealth Orchard and **Children's Orchard** - publishes the Fruitful Scotland newsletter and runs a Fruitful Schools programme. Supports community orchard planting, apple day, skills training, grafting and community events often in areas of regeneration. Can supply fruit trees and apples press, and deliver training events. www.commonwealthorchard.com, www.fruitfulschools.com or Tel: 0778 606 3918

Garden for Life - Lots of information about local orchard projects in Scotland on their forum. www.gardenforlife.org.uk In particular, see the leaflet: www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A407154.pdf

Garden Organic (HDRA) - Offer members online access to information about fruit tree care etc. Also offer a service where problems can be posted for identification and advice. www.gardenorganic.org.uk

J Tweedie Fruit Trees - Have a large selection including soft fruit. Collections by appointment or mail order. Send A5 SAE for details to: *Maryfield Road Nursery, Nr Terregles, Dumfriesshire, DG2 9TH* or Tel: 01387 720 880

Natural England - Good source of free information on restoring and managing traditional orchards. www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2010/171210.aspx

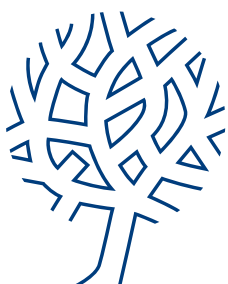
Plants with Purpose - An interesting nursery in Perthshire which is propagating apple trees supplied by Appletreeman who gives talks and advice on all aspects of fruit tree management, fruit identification, Apple Days etc. www.plantsandapples.co.uk

Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) - Very good resources on growing fruit, rootstocks, recommended varieties, pruning new trees, renovating old trees etc. Publishes 'Growing Fruit' by H. Baker. www.rhs.org.uk

School Orchard Project - A lottery funded project rolled out in Scotland at the end of 2010 to set up orchards in schools. www.fruitfulschools.org

Scottish Orchards - A network bringing together community groups, professional growers and enthusiastic amateurs, with the aim of getting orchards planted across Scotland, providing skills training and getting fruit picked and used. Developing a Central Scotland Orchard, listing Apple Days across Scotland and organising Fruitful Skills events across Scotland. www.scottishorchards.com, Tel: 0778 606 3918

The Tree Council - Has grants for planting trees (which can be fruit trees) available in the UK. www.treecouncil.org.uk/grants



Varieties suitable for organic growing in Scotland

Dessert apples

| Variety | Comments |
|---------------------------|--|
| Adams Pearmain | Hardy. Good crops lemon fleshed, conical fruit. |
| Arbroath Pippin/Oslin | Yellow skin. Sharp taste, hint of aniseed. |
| Beauty of Bath | Lovely early apple to eat fresh off tree. Drops easily. |
| Beauty of Moray | Dual purpose apple, sharp as eater, good for sauce. |
| Charles Ross | Dual purpose – best apple puree. Hardy. |
| Discovery | Hard. Crisp and juicy. |
| Forty Shilling (Carlisle) | Juicy and sharp with tangy, soft flesh. |
| George Cave | Juicy reliable eater. |
| Greensleeves | Golden delicious x James Greive |
| Katy/Katia | Red apple best eaten fresh or use for juice/cider. |
| Laxton Fortune | Sweet and juicy. Will keep 'til New Year in Scotland. |
| Red Windsor | Cox type. Will grow at heights over 600ft. |
| (Red) Falstaff | Red, crisp and juicy. Hardy – does well in North. |
| Ribston Pippin | Tripliod. Prone to canker. Highest vitamin C content. |
| Rosemary Russet | One of the best flavoured winter apples. |
| Sunset | Small fruit, less prone to disease than Cox. |
| Tydemans Early Worcester | Crimson with strawberry flavour of Worcester. |
| Winston | More disease free. Good in South. Small fruit, Cox x Worcester Pearmain |

Cooking apples

| Variety | Other comments |
|-----------------|--|
| Scotch Dumpling | Spreading tree. Brisk well flavoured puree. |
| Stirling Castle | Compact growth. White, well flavoured puree. |
| Tower of Glamis | Large fruit, cooks to pale lemon puree. |

Pears

| Variety | Other comments |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| Concorde | Like Conference but easier to grow |
| Beurre Hardy | Juicy, rosewater flavour. |
| Gorham | Juicy with musky flavour. |
| Louise Bonne | Melting flesh, well flavoured. |

Plums

| Variety | Comments |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Opal | Small pale purple plums. |
| Cambridge Gage | Sweet green fruit. Vigorous needs warmth. |
| Kirke's Blue | Large, sweet. Does well on warm wall - even in shade. |
| Shropshire damson or Westmorland | Blue-black fruit. Excellent cooked. |
| Quince - Siberian Gold | Very hardy. Needs sunshine to ripen. |

Cherries (Require very well drained soil)

| Variety | Other comments |
|---------|---|
| Morello | Tolerates shade and cold. Sharp taste, better cooked. |
| Stella | Sweet cherry. Resistant to bacterial canker. |



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