



Bring Home Spring with one of our beautiful bulb planters! Enjoy indoors for gorgeous color now and plant outdoors to brighten up springs to come!



Why Won't My Fruit Tree Bear Fruit?

Wondering why your fruit tree just isn't producing? Before giving up on those dreams of home-grown peaches or apples fresh off the branch, check out the list below for some possible reasons (and solutions) for a non-producing fruit tree.



1) Age

The tree may not be mature enough yet to bear fruit on a regular basis (on average, apples begin producing at 3-5 yrs, apricots 2-5 yrs, cherries 3-7 yrs, peaches 2-4 yrs, pears 4-6 yrs, plums 3-6 yrs, almonds 2-4 yrs, and walnuts 4-7 yrs) or the tree may be too old with diseased and dying wood.

2) Pollination Problems

Some fruit trees need another variety close by for pollination.

3) Hardiness Zones

Cold weather and late frosts can kill buds.

4) Soil Conditions and Fertilization

Good drainage and proper balance affects fruit production. For example, too much nitrogen may keep trees in a juvenile state rather than maturing to fruit-bearing.

6) Inadequate Spacing and/or Low Light

5) Pruning Problems

If over-pruned tree becomes too vegetative. If under-pruned it can over-bear, thus weakening tree. Don't prune too early in the spring.

Please talk to our knowledgeable Joe's Greenhouse fruit tree specialists for any questions you have!

Getting Down the Facts about Downy Mildew

If you have been following impatiens downy mildew in Utah, you know there were several reported cases last season. Impatiens downy mildew is a water mold that can be spread through water, air, and soil. Thankfully, only common impatiens (*Impatiens wallerana* and *Impatiens balsamina*) are affected by impatiens downy mildew. It is not spread via seed, and we seed all of our own impatiens except for the non-susceptible types (New Guinea and Sunpatiens). We also have a regular control program, so Joe's Greenhouse impatiens are healthy when you purchase them. Unfortunately, that does not inhibit them from contracting the disease from their environment if conditions are favorable.

Impatiens downy mildew spreads when there are cool night temperatures, moist air, and wet leaves. It is present in most states across the country, including Utah, although our weather is generally too dry to be conducive to this fungus. That wasn't the case for a few days late summer-early fall 2013! Usually, however, our climate is unfavorable to this disease and will hopefully hinder it in 2014.

Symptoms

Early symptoms of impatiens downy mildew may include yellowing or stippling of leaves with a grayish cast to the underside. More advanced symptoms include a fuzzy gray growth on the leaves and stems. Eventually the plant defoliates completely.

Prevention/Treatment

Preventative fungicide treatments can be very beneficial, but are not a guarantee. Watering in the morning so that the foliage has a chance to dry before night may help also. An interesting observation from eastern states devastated by downy mildew is that container plantings remain healthy. This may be due to better air movement and drying action around planters versus in-ground plantings. Impatiens are still a good choice for most Utah shade gardens. However, if impatiens downy mildew has been present in your plantings, we recommend using other shade plants in those areas for at least 2-3 years. Other excellent shade choices are New Guinea impatiens and Sunpatiens, coleus, begonias, polka dot plants, and ferns, as well as shade perennials. There are also numerous choices we can help you with for light shade areas.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

We've teamed up with USU Botanical Center in Kaysville and USU Ogden Botanical Gardens this year. They are a super resource for plant and gardening enthusiasts for education, landscaping ideas, workshops and more.

Go to usubotanicalcenter.org to become a Botanical Center member and for more information about receiving a 10% discount on your purchases at Joe's Greenhouse!