



Mulberry Tree Class

1. Food Forest Fast Facts

- a. 4 years old in 2024
- b. 120 different varieties
- c. Goal - harvest ripe fruit everyday, succession planting

2. Two Types of Mulberry

- a. Pakistani - large broad leaf, big fruit either white or red, taste like if a strawberry and blackberry had a baby.
 - i. Can be trained for single trunk or multi trunk.
- b. Dwarf Everbearing - “Dwarf” only applies to fruit size, smaller fruit, great for hedge rows. Smaller leaves.

3. Fertilize

- a. Use natural and organic - compost, castings, worm tea, and BSFL fertilizer
- b. Valentine’s Day, Memorial Day, and Labor Day
- c. Castings - slow release, microbes that feed the plants.
- d. Compost - organic material, feeds the microbes, provides nutrients to the soil
- e. BSFL Fertilizer - Slow release, evenly balanced NPK, made here on the farm, sustainable. (Use only when needed)

4. Spacing

- a. Deciduous tree - drops it leaves and berries
- b. Gets 20 - 30 feet tall and wide.
- c. Space 20 feet on center
- d. Great distractor - birds eat upper level berries, people harvest lower berries, chickens eat what falls off.

5. Pruning

- a. Sharpen and Sanitize tools

- b. Heavy prune in winter - January/February
- c. Light pruning - Spring/Fall just to shape - March, April, May / Sept, Oct, Nov.
- d. Do NOT prune in summer - June, July, August
- e. Prune from bottom up
- f. Prune broken, damaged, or crossing branches.
- g. Prune all suckers to train for single trunk. Let suckers grow for multi-trunk tree.

6. Fruit Production & Size

- a. Year 1 - Small harvest, bitter / Size from stick to 6-10 feet
- b. Year 2 - 2 times the harvest as year one / Size 15 - 20 feet
- c. Year 3 - Full harvest A LOT of fruit, sweet / Size 20 -30 feet
- d. Fruits from April through May, about 6 weeks of fruiting.

7. Uses - Permaculture

- a. Fruit production - jams, jellies, ice cream, gifts
- b. Propagate with your own cuttings
- c. Shade, Feed, and Protect chickens from hawks.
- d. Leave the leaves that fall to compost into the soil and feed the tree, no need to rake.

8. Planting

- a. Location - 6 hours of sunlight at least, can take full Arizona sun, great mother tree to protect other trees.
- b. Create berm to absorb water
- c. Fill hole with 50% compost / 50% natural soil
- d. Compact soil to get rid of air pockets, can cause root rot.
- e. Sprinkle castings on top, then mulch 6" inches minimum, 12" better
- f. Mulch - keeps ground cooler, uses much 50% less water, feeds beneficial bacteria, fungi, that feed the roots, worms, and other organisms.