

Incredible edibles!

Exotic edibles for your garden



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The sweet pulp of the Blue Bean Shrub is edible and tastes similar to a watermelon

There are numerous, little known edible trees and shrubs you usually don't find in garden centres. We collect the seeds all over Europe and grow these plants here in North Wales and they grow happily! Why not give them a try – you will probably have something that will be the envy of your neighbour, but most importantly, you can harvest delicious, unusual fruits for the table. Here is a little taste.

Decaisnea fargesii – Blue Bean Shrub (ultimate height: 2-3m)

You can harvest sausages from trees! Fast growing, eye-catching, unusual shrub. Its main character is the large pinnate leaves which can reach 80cm in length and 40cm in width and the metallic blue, fleshy seed pods, hanging on the "naked" plant after fall (until early winter). These quirky fruits are unique in shape and in ornamental value. Moreover, the gelatinous, translucent, sweet pulp is edible, tastes similar to a watermelon. In early summer it produces greenish-yellow flowers in hanging racemes.

This plant often grows multi-stemmed and can be pruned as



The pods of the Blue Bean Shrub hang on the naked stems until early winter

well, even trained to a wall. Very cold tolerant to -15C. Pest and disease resistant.

Poncirus trifoliata – Japanese Hardy Lemon (Bitter Orange) (ultimate height: 2m)

Unusual spiny shrub from the Far East, related to citrus, but extremely cold tolerant, down to -20C (fully hardy in the UK). Under warm climate, it is often used as the rootstock for grafting different citrus varieties due to its strong growth and cold tolerance. Its pure white, scented flowers open in March-April, before the leaves appear and from September, yellow, lemon-like fruits develop (stronger than a lemon; suitable for marmalade or for tea).



The fruits of Japanese Hardy Lemon are suitable for marmalade

Leaves turn bright yellow in autumn. The plant is covered in large spines, and the stems stay green for several years, which gives a spectacular architectural appearance to the plant during the winter months, boosted by the long spines. Drought tolerant, ideal for bonsai, for borders, to plant it against a wall or for an impenetrable low hedge-barrier. This species has a contorted, twisted stemmed variety, called 'Flying Dragon' which comes true from seed – it is really, something special.



"Flying Dragon" has contorted stems and really is something special

Diospyros virginiana – American Persimmon (ultimate height: 5-6m)

A very sweet tasting fruit and an elegant ornamental, small tree with striking yellow autumn coloration and excellent food source for birds during winter, as the tree holds the fruits on the branches for a long time. Its fragrant flowers appear among the large, leathery, entire leaves. It starts to produce fruit from around the age of 6, but it is dioecious, so you may consider to order 2 or 3 plants to get a great chance to have both sexes. Fruits grow to tomato size, becoming orange in colour, and soften in winter by frost – similar to the Japanese Persimmon or Sharon fruit, but even sweeter!



The sweet fruits of American Persimmon are ideal for birds in winter

**Eriobotrya japonica –
Loquat or Japanese Medlar
(ultimate height: 5m)**

This fruit has hundreds of cultivars in China and Japan and is widely produced in the Far-East and in Mediterranean and subtropical regions. An evergreen, very ornamental small tree with long, dark green, leathery leaves and yellow-white flowers, open on the tip of the branches in winter - the flowers may be pollinated even when it is cold if not frosty. In order for the succulent, sweet fruits to develop fully, it requires almost

frost free environment from February to May but if successful, a very tasty fruit can be harvested early Summer! It is best to plant by a wall in Britain or can be kept in a larger conservatory. The flowers have the most sweetly scent one can imagine. The tree itself is hardy to about -10C.

If you have further questions or are ready to try out some of these plants, please don't hesitate to get in touch or visit our website:
www.jurassicplants.co.uk



Loquat fruits require protection from frost in early spring to ensure plenty of succulent fruits in early summer