

Jujube

**DID YOU KNOW
JUJUBES ARE OFTEN
CALLED CHINESE
DATES?**

WHAT ARE JUJUBES?

Jujubes are small fruits with a crisp texture and sweet flavor, often compared to an apple when eaten fresh. As they mature and dry, they become much sweeter and develop a chewy texture similar to a date. One of the easiest fruit trees to grow, jujubes are valued not only for their productivity and resilience but also for their nutritional benefits. The fruit is rich in vitamin C, fiber, and potassium, and is often associated with supporting immune health, digestive function, and overall well-being.

PLANTING

Jujubes should be planted after the summer heat when the tree is going dormant in the fall. You can also plant in early spring. If you live in a warm climate where the ground does not stay frozen, you can plant during the winter.

Jujubes need full sun and well-draining soil. They are incredibly vigorous, so soil amendments are not usually necessary. Dig a hole a little bigger than the pot and place your plant in it. Backfill with soil and water thoroughly to eliminate any air pockets. Make sure to water regularly for the first two weeks after planting to ensure your tree's survival. Plant jujube trees 10 - 15 feet apart.

MAINTENANCE

One of the biggest advantages of jujube trees is how little upkeep they require. Prune during late winter or early spring to remove dead, damaged, or crossing branches and to maintain an open canopy. Mature trees generally need only light annual pruning.

Jujubes are not heavy feeders. An annual application of compost or a balanced fertilizer in early spring is usually sufficient. Avoid excessive nitrogen, which can encourage leafy growth at the expense of fruit production.

These trees are also relatively resistant to pests and diseases, making them an excellent choice for low-spray or backyard orchards.



HARVESTING

Fruit can be enjoyed fresh, dried, or used in jams, baked goods, and teas. For fresh eating, harvest fruit when it begins turning from green to reddish-brown. At this stage, the fruit is crisp, juicy, and apple-like in texture. Certain varieties like the Lang, taste better dried. If left on the tree for a few more weeks, they will dry out and become a dark red color, tasting like a sweet, soft dried fruit.

POPULAR VARIETIES

Li – One of the most widely grown varieties, producing large, sweet fruit that is excellent for fresh eating.

Lang – Produces elongated fruit and is often preferred for drying. Li is a great pollination partner.

Sugar Cane – Offers crisp texture and outstanding sweetness, making it a favorite for fresh consumption.

GA-866 – A large, elongated jujube with a crisp texture, exceptional sweetness, and high sugar content, making it one of the best late-season varieties for fresh eating.

Honey Jar – A small, round fruit prized for its intense sweetness, juicy crunch, and early ripening season.

Shanxi Li – One of the largest jujube varieties, producing sweet, crisp fruit with an apple-like texture and outstanding fresh-eating quality.

Sugar Cane – A medium-sized jujube with a uniquely sweet, sugarcane-like flavor, crisp texture, and excellent productivity.

Coco – A small to medium-sized jujube with rich, complex sweetness, exceptional flavor, and attractive fruit that is excellent eaten fresh.

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