

Creation of a UC Statewide Fruit and Nut Crop Web Site for the Home Gardener

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The UC Fruit and Nut Research and Information Center (FNRIC) is developing a Web site entitled, "The California Backyard Orchard." The intended audiences are those California backyard gardeners growing or wanting to grow fruit and nut crops, and University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) personnel who currently provide this information through other media.

Web site topics include: Why have an orchard?, Site considerations, Tree selection, Propagation, Preparation and planting, Irrigation, Care and management, Harvest and postharvest, Pests and diseases, Crop-specific information, Master Gardener links, Search capability, Calendar, Related links, and Glossary.

Objectives:

Provide the home gardener with easy access to UC fruit and nut crop information on the Internet, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Provide UCCE personnel with an efficient manner for answering questions and providing practical and useful information to clientele, who do not have Internet access, by quickly faxing or e-mailing Web-based information.

Provide a focal point for statewide information dissemination and an opportunity for cross-county collaborations.

Support the Master Gardener Program through information on the Web site.

Increase the audience for and awareness of UCCE horticulture research and extension activities.

Discussion of work completed January through July 1999:

A unique Web address was established for the final version of the California Backyard Orchard Web site at <http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu>. The current test version of the site is in a password-protected directory on the FNRIC server.

All UCCE documents submitted to the Center for inclusion have been reviewed and categorized. The



Figure 1. The California Backyard Orchard Home page. The final version of the Web site will be accessible at <http://homeorchard.ucdavis.edu>.

Web site has been redesigned, with consideration for the initial project design and quantity of subject matter documents, to make it more visually attractive and navigation more user-friendly. Software (Allaire's HomeSite) has been purchased to aid in the organization, management, and development of the site's html and graphic files.

Completed Web pages include Home page, Why Have an Orchard?, About this Site, The Big Picture - Site Considerations (Climate, Microclimates, Chilling, Soil, Wildlife Protection, Competition, Layout), The Big Picture - Preparation and Planting, and Crop Selection.

Web pages in progress include Acknowledgments, UCCE Master Gardeners, Links, The Big Picture - Tree Selection, The Big Picture - Propagation, The Big Picture - Care & Management, The Big Picture - Harvest & Postharvest, and The Big Picture - Irrigation.

This project has reached the stage where it will benefit from review. The new software will allow us to

easily install consistent navigation bars on current pages. At that point, we will distribute the password and request a review of the site from our cooperators and contributors.

The next major step will be to complete Web pages for individual crops with regional and county-specific information developed at UCCE offices.

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