

PLAYHAVEN FARM LLC & GREEN BUILDING PROJECT



SUSTAINABLE FARMING : FRUITS, VEGETABLES, HERBS...

PLEASE NOTE:

Everything included in "Sustainable Farming : Fruits, Vegetables, Herbs..." has been transposed directly from the website. That includes references to the PlayHaven Farm LLC and Green Building Project (PHF&GBP) website pages, external websites, links to documents, etc. Because of how quickly things change on the internet, there are NO links from this document.

MAKING PLANS (OCTOBER 2008)

We've added a fenced area to the east of the "backyard". We'll use it for the dogs to do training, to put in a kennel building with dog runs, etc. But it could also be used for livestock.

I've taken a walking tour of the area north of the house so as to get measurements for the placement of planting beds, livestock buildings and fencing.

Over the winter, I'll work out how to phase in these improvements. I'm also looking into raising rabbits for meat in addition to deciding what kind of chickens to keep and what other livestock to phase in to our self-sufficient, sustainable, organic farm.

As an environmentalist who likes being in the city... it was hard for me to move out into the country. Everything off the farm requires using a vehicle to get to town which is at least 10 miles away; which means using more fuel.

The hubby was already commuting and the distance didn't change for him... plus he drives the Honda Insight specifically because of his commute and the 70+ mpg he consistently gets pretty much offsets the distance he drives.

My graphic design business is based from my house, so that saves a lot of fuel as well.

Still, it was hard for me to justify moving to the country just for the sake of living on an acreage (which has always been the hubby's dream). The fact that the zoning where we bought the land makes it easy to do innovative construction did help.

The other justification for me is to turn the acreage into a self-sustaining farm.

To that end, I've been taking classes through the Kansas 'Growing Growers' program, attended workshops and seminars by the Missouri Beginning Farmers program, gotten to know my local Extension Service pretty well and attend the 'Women in Agriculture' conferences... just to name a few things.

It's slow going right now, but in order to make this an organic, self-sustaining farm, I figure it's better to spend the time getting the preparation right than jumping in and messing things up that will cost more to fix later.

CAN WE REALLY CALL THIS FARMING? (OCTOBER 2009)

Going through my photos from this year, I realized I never published this one from the spring. Here is Gary working on putting in the first of the 2 foot by 10 foot beds in the Northwest Field.

You may wonder if we can really call this farming... probably not. But I always say: You have to start somewhere.

We quickly discovered that the southern end of this field (closest to the red barn) stays very saturated with water; which will change the plans I had for that field. But we avoided that area and put in the few (12) that we could.

A big deal for me this year was record-keeping. Not used to doing that with gardening... but think I made a good start of it and, hopefully, it will work for tracing seed from generation to generation. I kept a journal this year. Meant to keep really good track of rainfall and such, but that part wasn't so well documented.

Personally, for vegetable gardening, I prefer raised beds. Mainly because its hard for me to kneel and lean over the flat ones (like this year) to manage them. Had a terraced garden at the old house (picture below) which was perfect for my needs... and I've been promised that raised beds will be in my future.



We had a pretty good year when it came to our harvest. There were only a few vegetables planted this year, but we ended up with:

- about 100 lbs of potatoes (among 4 organic varieties)
- enough organic roma tomatoes to make 4 big tubs of tomato and mozzarella salad
- about 25 lbs of onions (not organic... only because I didn't find any by the time I needed to plant them)
- 20 pie-size pumpkins (can't claim organic, but they come from seeds from an organic pumpkin 2 generations ago)
- about 2 lbs of edible pod peas (not a very good year for those)
- about 5 lbs of carrots

and I still need to dig up the sweet potatoes (organic)... hoping to get about 50 lbs (crossing fingers).

UPDATE: We did get at least 50 lbs of sweet potatoes! I have plenty left to plant for the next crop.

The eggplants didn't do anything... hardly even got plants. And the radishes bolted ... but I see there are a few plants out there now, maybe they seeded themselves for a fall crop. The peas did SO poorly, I did get a few but had to save them for seed for next year.



Such is the life of working the soil. Farming is the hardest job ever! And we don't even have livestock yet. Ah well, we learn as we go.

Right now we are storing our harvest in the basement, but it isn't quite as cold down there as I'd like for storing vegetables... so we may be building a wall down there so we can create a "cool room" (like a cellar) that is not part of the conditioned space.

PREPARING FOR A FRUIT ORCHARD (JUNE 2011 -- UPDATE FEBRUARY 2012)

I keep forgetting to talk about the things I've been doing in the area of farming. So before I get into the fruit tree orchard prep, let me just mention what I've been doing...

Each year I buy seedlings through the Missouri Department of Conservation program. We don't mind getting them young and letting them grow. To date we have planted 25 Blackberry plants (20 survived), 25 Persimmon trees (15 survived), 25 Dogwood trees (8 survived), 25 Elderberry bushes (12 survived), 25 Wild Indigo bushes (22 survived so far - 1st year), 25 Witchhazel bushes (22 survived so far - 1st year), and 25 Cottonwood trees (only 6 survived so far - 1st year). As you can see, you take your chances getting bare root seedlings, but so far we are ahead of the game. We've had 2 years of blackberries (enough for my husband to eat his fill and freeze the rest). The rest of the plants are not mature enough to produce yet... but we are looking forward to watching them grow and eventual harvests.

I also purchased 3 PawPaw yearling trees and 6 Aroniaberry bushes from the local high school botany program. Lost 1 PawPaw, but the others are looking very healthy. I've harvested 2 years of Aroniaberries and (like the hubby) have had enough to eat my fill and freeze some as well. I'd like to get more PawPaw trees (they have a low transplant success rate) so I'll be ordering from the MO Dept. of Cons. as soon as the order form is available this year. They run out quickly.

OK, on to preparing for a fruit orchard...

This year we started preparing the soil in the location where we will plant the fruit orchard. It is a north facing slight slope with good drainage. It needed roto-tilling because the previous owner ran horses on the pasture and the ground is thoroughly compacted... really not good for growing crops. A normal garden roto-tiller would not make a dent... we ended up renting a walk behind version for one day and the hubby chopped at the areas I had marked. It resulted in about a 4 inch depth of loosened soil.

I purchased a batch of 1000 sweet potato slips (organic, Beauregard variety) through the Kansas State University program. I've done this before as the coordinator of a bunch of people going in on an order, but this year only a couple people were interested, so I ended up with about 500 slips for our farm. That was fine because we then planted the organic sweet potato slips in the cleared strips to help break up the soil even further (as they grow and are dug up at harvest time).

The location is quite a distance from our water supply, but we have several old garden hoses. So I hung them in 2 parts... one close to the source and one close to the plants. It took about 30 minutes each day to spread them out and attach them and then water the new plants. I watered them in for about a week (maybe two, I don't really recall), until it was clear that they had taken hold. Then, since sweet potatoes are very resilient, I left them to their own devices. I did keep an eye out for nibblers (deer and rabbits) but we were lucky and I didn't have to use the 'Liquid Fence' deterrent. (It's going into storage for next year.)

I didn't bother trying to keep the area weed free... after all it had been in pasture grass for a long time and nothing would stop the fescue from growing. I did use the flame weeder once to slow the grasses progress. We had a very hot and dry summer and I was afraid that we would get no potatoes off those plants... but the purpose was to break up the soil more than harvest a crop anyway.

After the first hard frost, we purchased a middle-buster (basically a single plow) for the tractor and the hubby learned how to turn a row. I watched as the soil was disturbed and LOW and BEHOLD... SWEET POTATOES!!! Granted they are small (about the size of a large carrot) and not very many (ended up with about 50 lbs), but I call that a success after the year we had.

The middle buster worked great and the disturbed soil depth is now about 10 inches (generally). Next year I'll put an annual rye in for the cool weather and then buckwheat for the hot weather to continue getting it ready for the trees. It will take another year before we will plant those. When it's time, the plan is to put in 2 apples, 2 pears, 2 peaches, and 2 cherries. (Varieties still to be determined.)

UPDATE (FEBRUARY 2012)

In January I had the fortune to attend a full-day seminar on Soil Health and Cover Crops presented by the local NRCS office. I now know that it was not necessary for us to roto-till the land to prepare it for the orchard! Instead, we could have done a couple of different things...

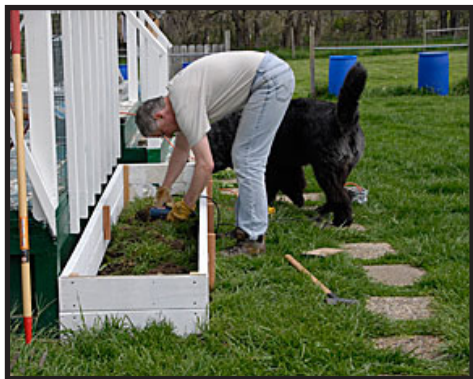
We could have put a chicken tractor on the area and "uppened" the soil (as described in "Chicken Tractor" by Andy Lee and Patricia Foreman) by letting the chickens scratch and peck at the greens, bugs, seeds, etc. and turn their food into chicken manure.

Or, we could have scratched at the surface (which is really all we ended up doing with the roto-tiller since there was hardpan on the surface) and then planted a "cover crop cocktail" (as described by Ray Archuleta at the seminar) to add organic matter and let the sub-aquatic world of micro-organisms repair the soil.

So, this spring we will smooth out that chopped up dirt and plant the cover crop and let nature take its course!

RAISED BEDS FOR VEGETABLE PRODUCTION (NOVEMBER 2011)

It's a beginning... now that the hubby is removing the wood from the south porch (click [here](#) for that project), there is wood available to start making my edible garden raised beds. As you can see the wood has been painted; I used an oil based paint to help seal the wood against quick deterioration. He used cedar wood for the posts and the wood is screwed together. The larger beds will be 4-ft. by 16 ft.



As of today (11-11-11) there is a bed on either side of the stairs and a 4x16 bed east of the south porch. We were able to plant strawberries in the bed shown above and those plants are looking great! I planted turnips, carrots and bush beans in the other bed. The turnips were hit by cut worms, but we had a nice (small) harvest of carrots and beans.

The blue barrels you see in the background were for growing potatoes. We had beautiful foliage all summer and less actual potatoes than I planted. Not sure what I did wrong... will try again next year.

I bought red and russet potatoes earlier in the year and got them planted. At right are some pictures of them - they are SO pretty when they bloom! The purple flowers are on the red variety. The white flowers are on the russets.



I was all set to put in a bunch of raised beds in the fenced yard shown in the pictures above. BUT, after pulling down some fencing for the ground source heat pump last fall, I've had a change of plans. Mainly I'm moving them because it's a pain to keep the dogs out of the raised beds. They are REALLY good at harvesting before we get to it. LOL



That means I did not plant a lot of things this year.

I had a small, early harvest of strawberries. The weather was warm very early and everything is out of whack. Then we had very little rain for a long time, so the strawberries we got are very small - but very sweet. It was enough for five (5) strawberry shortcake desserts. Ah well; I'll move the plants to the new location for next year.

I purchased 1000 Certified Organic Beauregard Sweet Potato Slips and had the ground ready to receive them when I injured my left hand. Between that and a sudden business of other things, we were not able to get the slips in the ground before they rotted in the buckets (where I had put some water in with them to keep them alive - waaahhh!). Drat, drat, DRAT! No sweet potatoes for us (or any to sell) this year. I even had purchased enough watering hose to be able to water them if we had another hot and dry summer. Oh well, that's how it goes sometimes.

The blackberries (picture below-left), on the other hand, (and most of the other fruits, for that matter) are LOADED with berries! If we get a bit of rain, they will be very nice! (fingers and toes crossed) The picture below-right are elderberries.



I also have noticed that the Osage Orange trees are simply LOADED with "Hedge Apples"!!! Time to call the area florists and see if any of them are interested in the weird, green, bumpy things. (They look great in floral arrangements.)

There is not much to talk about yet in regard to plant products for sale.

I started out by putting in Persimmon Trees, Blackberry Bushes, Aroniaberry Bushes, and Elderberries. But it takes time for them to mature and so there hasn't been enough harvest yet of any of them to make them available for sale. I hope to have some for the 2014 season. In the meantime, I'll put information on this page about the plants we have on the farm in anticipation of bountiful crops.

BLACKBERRIES

Our blackberries come from native stock purchased from the MO Department of Conservation. The plants have nasty thorns and great, big, sweet, juicy berries. Last year (when we had bees in the spring) we ended up harvesting 10 gallons of berries from our 20 plants. This year we had no honeybees in the spring and the crop has not been nearly that size. If you are interested in blackberries, contact me.

ARONIABERRIES

What the heck is that? I hear you saying. Aronia melanocarpa is a bush-type berry that is amazingly healthful. Commonly called 'black chokeberry', it "has attracted scientific interest due to its deep purple, almost black pigmentation that arises from dense contents of polyphenols, especially anthocyanins. Total anthocyanin content in chokeberries is 1480 mg per 100 g of fresh berries, and proanthocyanidin concentration is 664 mg per 100 g. Both values are among the highest measured in plants to date." (Quoted from Wikipedia).

I learned about these amazing berries through a friend who is a Master Gardener. He teaches at a local High School and they have a plant sale every year. So I put in six (6) bushes and discovered that I LOVE ARONIABERRIES.

They are not overly sweet and they have a slight chalky tone when you first bite into one (which is probably the "choke" part of the nickname). But the flavor is better than blueberries (in my humble opinion). I have been freezing the berries (after a good rinse in water) and putting the frozen berries in my morning cereal for the last couple of years. My harvests have slowly gotten bigger and this year is the biggest yet: 10 gallons!

Now, considering how much I LOVE these berries; I don't really want to let any of them go for sale this year. BUT, if you want to try them, I might be persuaded to sell you a few to see how you like them.

What the growers I've spoken to say is that most people don't like them raw. They recommend using them in jams, jellies, pies, etc. where you add sweeteners. I think they would make a great substitute for blueberries in any recipe. I do not make any of those products, so if YOU DO... maybe we can make a deal where you get berries in return for a review and your recipe to share on this website.

More information can be found at these links (or type in Aronia melanocarpa into your Search engine for even more):

- <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aronia>
- <http://www.foxnews.com/health/2013/06/07/aronia-north-american-super-berry-with-cancer-fighting-benefits/>
- <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/news/2009/mar/110401.htm>

OSAGE ORANGE

Already established on the farm are Osage Orange trees (some people call them "Hedge Apple trees"). Last year, we had a BUMPER crop of the fruit (which no one seems to know what to do with

other than for decoration). This year the trees seem to be resting from last year; which makes me wonder if this will be consistent: one year on, one year off. I'll let you know what I find out.

SWEET POTATOES

I put about 600 Organic 'Beauregard' Sweet Potato slips in this Spring. They are growing nicely, so there may be Sweet Potatoes in the Fall 2013. We cannot sell them as 'organic' because we are not certified; however, the slips were from a certified organic source and we do not put any kind of fertilizer, pesticide, etc. on them. As a matter of fact, I have not even weeded them, so there is a bountiful diversity of plants growing with them in the field. [UPDATE, 11-22-13: I am a bit disappointed with the sweet potato harvest. The problem, I believe, is our soil... it is clay mostly. The potatoes we dug up were very small and we ended up using the tractor with a single plow to dig them (which ended up cutting more than not). All totalled there was about 50 lbs of potatoes and that makes them come to about \$2.00 per pound considering the cost of the slips and shipping. I cleaned, cut, boiled and mashed ALL of them. So we now have plenty of mashed sweet potatoes in the freezer. At least the area has been cultivated for several years and we can easily amend the soil so as to turn that land into the orchard as has always been the plan.]

2014 CROPS

It is April 16, 2014 and I only have a few things planted. This is normal for Missouri because the last freeze/frost date is general the end of April. Last year we had snow that accumulated the first week of May, so who knows.

We had a freeze just the other night and I am hoping it did not destroy the new budding leaves on the new fruit trees.

As you may already know, I have been focusing on livestock the past few years and have not gotten very far on plants. Plus, I like to try stuff out for a year or so before I feel comfortable advertising it to customers. SO, I don't have much in the way of produce planned for sale this year. What I do have will be sold from the farm and I WILL NOT be getting booth space in any Farmers Markets in 2014.

Now that all those qualifiers are out of the way (LOL), here is what is planted and when it will be available:

STRAWBERRIES

The variety of everbearing strawberries I have is: Sparkle.

The berries are smallish compared to what you get in the grocery store, but they are very flavorful.

They should start producing mid-May and will have fruit through the month of June (if the weather doesn't get too hot too soon).



I transplanted all my strawberry plants on April 13th to a larger bed. They are companion planted with Rhubarb and Columbine.

The photo shows the straw I added as a freeze precaution.

Thank goodness that strawberries are hardy, they and the other plants are looking good. I may not have as many berries this year since they were put through the stress of transplanting. I'll advertise them with a price when they start bearing fruit.

ARONIA BERRIES

I believe the variety of Aronia Berry I have is: Viking. I'm not entirely sure because I purchased my plants from the Botany Class sale at a local high school several years ago and didn't think to write it down. However, Viking is pretty darn common, so that is my best guess.

If you are not familiar with Aronia Berries, I've written about them previously on this page.



Also, PDF flyer that the Botany Teacher supplied to me is attached.

This photo was taken on April 13, 2014. As you can see, the leaves are bursting forth and I don't think you can see them, but there are itty bitty buds for the flowers in many of those leaf clusters. I have not checked to see if the freeze the other night got them... hoping not.

These berries ripen in July. I'll advertise them with a price once I have some idea of when they will be ready to harvest.

BLACKBERRIES

I'm going to assume that everyone knows about blackberries. My berries come from native stock (MO Department of Conservation sales) with lots of nasty cat-claw-like thorns and they are definitely worth the trouble to retrieve them!

I planted these because my husband LOVES them. Therefore, it is his responsibility to pick them. That's fair, don't you think? (LOL) They start ripening in June and continue for quite a while. The darker the berry, the sweeter it is.



I took this photo a couple of years ago in early May (it was a very early Spring that year). I also had bees that year and so there was a bumper crop of berries. In case you don't understand why... it's because more of the flowers get fertilized when the bees are collecting pollen or nectar and so more berries are produced.

I have bees again this year and while I am looking at a late start due to the long winter we had, I am hopeful that we will have a plentiful crop.

This is NOT a pick-your-own situation. When I figure out how much of the crop my husband will let me have (LOL), I'll figure out a price and advertise it... probably in late June. (Obviously he will have to get a cut since he will be doing the labor.)

POTATOES

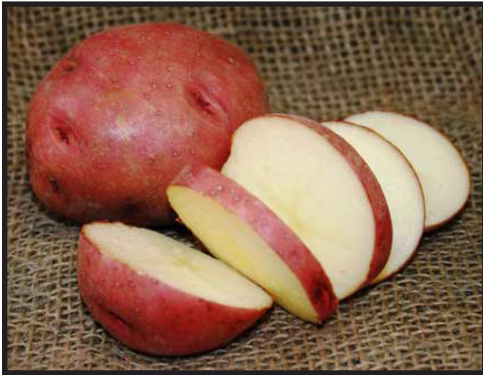
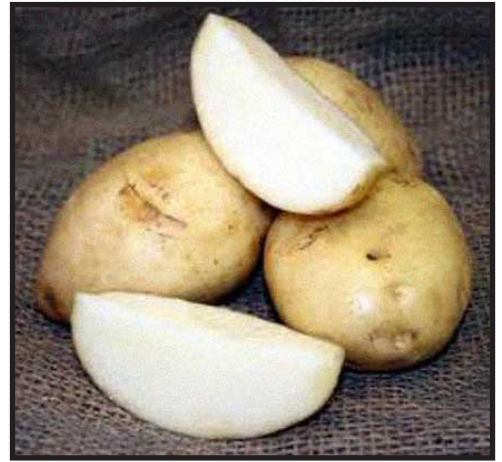
Normally, I buy my potatoes from The Potato Garden, but this year I am experimenting, so I chose a cheaper, local supplier or that reason and that reason alone.

This is a Kennebec white potato. I doubt that it is organic since I purchased the seed potatoes at a local nursery and they did not advertise them as organic.

I personally like the Kennebec for roasting.

Links:

- [Wikipedia: Kennebec potato](#)
- www.JohnnySeeds.com



This is a Norland red potato. Again, probably not organic since I purchased it from the same source as the white potato above.

I like the Norland for boiling.

Links:

- [Wikipedia: Red Norland potato](#)
- www.JohnnySeeds.com

This is what potato plants look like in flower. I think they are beautiful! I would plant potatoes just for this.

Did you know that if you leave a few small potatoes in the ground when you harvest, they will grow the following year?

You can have perennial beds of potatoes this way. Just a thought.



In 2014, I am trying something different (which is why I didn't worry about whether the seed potatoes are organic). I'm doing 'no-till' potato beds. This being the first year, I did have to remove the sod (grass) from the area. Then I simply placed the cut potatoes on the exposed soil and covered the beds with about 6 to 8 inches of straw. I'll add more straw as the plants get taller. I'll let you know how the experiment goes. If I get a potato harvest, I'll advertise the price at that time. Cross your fingers and toes for me.

BUFFALO GRASS

I learned about Buffalo Grass years and years ago when I first started investigating building my own sustainable house. At that time, it was all commercial buildings and not at all focused on residences. But I went to the conferences and presentations, etc. anyway figuring someone there would know a residential builder that I could contact.

Anyway, the landscaping people were all talking about Buffalo Grass. It is a North American native that is lovely for turf.

The photo at right shows the dormant plug (the lighter grass) surrounded by straw.

I purchased my plugs from The Prairie and Wetland Center (also known as Critsite) in Belton, MO. They have LOTS more great natives that I hope to incorporate around the farm.



This patch is where I had asked the hubby to put a raised bed (in the dog yard) that turned out to be a bad idea. So it was moved to the 'production' area (not in the dog yard, LOL) and that left a bare patch of soil. Viola! the perfect place to start my buffalo grass.

There are 40+/- plugs spaced evenly through this area and I put straw over the bare soil to reduce the unwanted plant growth. (I hate to say "weed" any more.)

Once this area fills in, I'll take plugs from it and convert another patch, and so on and so until the entire dog yard is done.

What I like about this turf is that it is LOW maintenance and only gets about 8 inches tall, so I don't have to mow it if I don't want to. :)

Some links I found helpful:

- www.MyGardeningInfo.com
- Wikipedia: Buffalo Grass
- www.Seedland.com
- www.Lawn-Care-Academy.com

OTHER PLANTINGS TO MENTION...

I am starting my personal garden soon. I think everyone who has space for a few pots or a sunny piece of ground can begin growing things they like to eat. For me, it doesn't even matter if I get produce out of it, just the act of planting seeds and watching plants grow is something I find very satisfying. Stuff to eat is like a bonus to me.

I picked up a few tomato plants at the KC Food Circle Expo (Heirloom, of course). I like to grow my own green beans, broccoli, and squash. I have not decided whether I will put any of those into 'farm production'... seems like there are plenty of people doing that already.

The primary plant I'm working into the forage on the farm is Comfrey. I had been having trouble finding the native variety that spreads... that is until this Spring. I was able to get six (6) small plants at a local nursery and am excited to start my Comfrey bed and watch it spread so I have plenty to transplant around the farm. Comfrey is a medicinal herb and everything I read says it's great to have where your livestock can eat it at will. Plus, I'll be in a position to learn how to prepare it for personal use having the plants readily available.

I'm planting pumpkin seeds this weekend. The great, big jack-o-lantern type so that I can be sure to have some for the livestock this winter. I doubt I'll be selling any.

I also am excited to create herbal gardens that are medicinal and others that are for cooking. I haven't got it all worked out just yet, but I have purchased some cooking herbs (sage, parsley, basil) and a few other herbs (lemongrass, clary sage, patchouli) to get started.

THE ORCHARD, IT'S A BEGINNING (APRIL 16, 2014)

Well, I finally came up with the money to start the Orchard. Really would have liked to do this several years ago... but in addition to money, I had to figure out WHERE to put the Orchard (not easy to move it if it's in the wrong place) and then prepare the ground. As you may have read, I tilled strips from the pasture that is on the northeast corner of the PlayHaven East. Then I planted sweet potatoes in those strips to help break up the soil some more (and in the process get some sweet potatoes). The previous owner had put horses on that pasture and the ground was heavily compressed. Three years of planting sweet potatoes (with pretty bad returns, by the way --- convinced me to not do that anymore) required digging them up each year and that left a looser soil. I had not done any 'weed control' so the native grasses are still coming up in those areas.

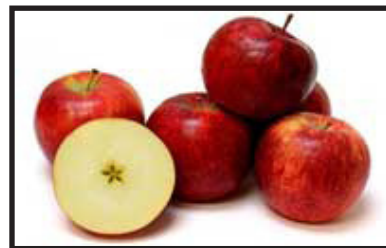
I purchased my trees from Colonial Nursery in Blue Springs MO. They offer a warranty on their trees and as a business owner and new orchardist, that is very important to me. They also provide a planting service for an additional fee; another feature I wanted as a new orchardist. LOL So, on March 19, the nice man from Colonial arrived and in short order had all seven (7) trees in the ground, fertilized, and staked. (I've noted their location for my records... there is no rule that I know of determining how to arrange your trees with this small of a grouping.) Their instructions were to water them once a week (unless we get an inch of rain that week). I am also rereading The Holistic Orchard by Michael Phillips to be sure I maintain them correctly with nutrient-rich foliar sprays, etc. (The link is to Amazon.com where I found it originally.)



JONATHON APPLE (NORTH ROW, WEST END = 1A)

Here are a few links I found very informative:

- www.OrangePippin.com
- www.SpecialtyProduce.com
- www.virginiaapples.net



I like these apples. That is why I bought this variety. I've seen some negative comments about them on the internet, but that's pretty much true of anything. LOL

The tree pictured is about 7 feet tall. The fellow at the nursery figured I'd see apples in a few years (translation: 2 or 3 years).

GALA APPLE (NORTH ROW, CENTER = 1B)

Here are a few links I found very informative:

- www.Stemilt.com
- www.OrangePippin.com
- www.ProduceOasis.com



I bought this variety because it has gained such popularity. It is a very pleasant apple.

The tree pictured is about 7 feet tall. The fellow at the nursery figured I'd see apples in a few years (translation: 2 or 3 years).



YELLOW DELICIOUS APPLE (NORTH ROW, EAST END = 1C)

Here are a few links I found very informative:

- www.Stemilt.com
- www.OrangePippin.com
- www.Fast-Growing-Trees.com



This is my favorite apple. Period. So, OF COURSE, I had to plant one.

The tree pictured is about 7 feet tall. The fellow at the nursery figured I'd see apples in a few years (translation: 2 or 3 years).



MONTGOMERY SOUR CHERRY (CENTER ROW, WEST END = 2A)

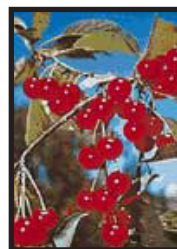
Here is a link I found very informative:

- www.MedicineZine.com

I know absolutely nothing about cherries. Turns out this Montgomery variety is very popular and it is one of several sour/tart cherries covered by the name: Montmorency. So now when you search for info, you won't be as confused as I was.

A sour cherry is best for cooking. A sweet cherry for eating directly from the tree. You need another cherry to pollinate a sweet cherry, but a sour cherry is self-pollinating.

The tree pictured is about 5 feet tall. The fellow at the nursery figured I'd see cherries in a few years (translation: 2 or 3 years).



BARTLETT PEAR (CENTER ROW, EAST END = 2B)

Here is a link I found very informative:

- www.NatureHills.com

The common pear in the U.S. Must be common because it's SO GOOD. LOL Again, I know nothing about pears other than how much I enjoy eating them. Went with this standard as a start.



The tree pictured is about 5 feet tall. The fellow at the nursery figured I'd see pears in a few years (translation: 2 or 3 years).



GOLDEN SWEET APRICOT (SOUTH ROW, WEST END = 3A)

Here are a couple of links I found very informative:

- www.BurchellNursery.com
- www.BerryNurseries.com

Obviously, I've been buying fruit trees that I like and the Apricot tops the list for me. Of all tree fruits, this is my favorite.



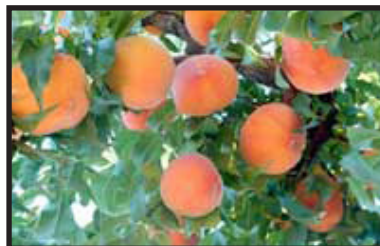
The tree pictured is about 5 feet tall. The fellow at the nursery figured I'd see apricots very soon.

ELBERTA PEACH (SOUTH ROW, EAST END = 3B)

Here are a couple of links I found very informative:

- www.NatureHills.com
- www.FruitTreeFarm.com

No, I didn't spell it wrong. I, too, thought it was "Alberta", but no... the correct spelling is Elberta. Once again, I bought what the nursery had because I am learning about being an orchardist. This variety is tried and true and the hubby wanted a peach tree. (LOL)



The tree pictured is about 4 feet tall. The fellow at the nursery figured I'd see peaches pretty soon.

