

## **Five Beneficial Trees to Have in Your Homestead When The SHTF**

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When I bought my home with three acres of land my major goal was to make it self-sustaining in the event of a major disaster or crisis. This I found was a consuming task at best. There are just so many different projects involved that it can often become mind-boggling. The only way to attack such a venture is by breaking down the larger picture into smaller images. As an example, in a SHTF situation the only fruit that you will get will be those which another may be willing to barter for. This type of action tells me that I should consider growing a small selection of fruit trees for my families use.

With that thought clearly in mind I next had to decide which would be the most beneficial fruit trees for me to grow. I had previously decided that in the event that I plant any sort of trees they must be useful, meaning they bear fruit which could be consumed. There is no one tree which fits all classification in this category of preparedness. Several different varieties of trees must be grown to provide an answer to my fruit tree quest.

In the event that you are extremely limited in the space for your orchard I would highly recommend that you obtain the “dwarf” varieties of fruit trees. Dwarfs produce an abundance of fruit but have certain advantages such as they are closer to the ground making it easier to pick the fruit or to prune the trees. Additionally, they are not as large in their circumference which allows more trees for the same amount of space. You can get dwarfs for peach, nectarine, and a “five fruit” apple tree and a host of other trees which bear fruit.

### **Apple Trees**

Granted in the miniature tree varieties I can find multipurpose trees such as one dwarf which has several different type of apples rowing on one stock. This is all very pleasing to me as it gives me variety without eating up valuable space in the orchard area. As I already mentioned apples would be one of my first picks. An apple tree has some very tasty fruit which grows on it in season but in addition it provides a measure of medicinal use also. The bark from the tree is especially useful for stopping bouts of diarrhea and to break high fevers when properly prepared. Stewing those same apples can be employed for controlling constipation. My wife is particularly fond of apple cider and we purchased all the equipment to allow us to make gallons of the drink at home. Incidentally, apple cider has a medical effect on the intestines by destroying any harmful bacteria inside of them.

### **Pear Trees**

My next fruit tree to mention will be the pear. These trees produce delightful fruit that is popular with everyone in the family. Additionally, the wood can be used in a smoker when smoking your own meats. If you are into wood project you would find that the pear tree wood is long-lasting and rot resistant. It is also great for making your home-made

musical instruments if that is your mindset. Pears like apples contain pectin which can help you manage constipation, diarrhea and nausea issues.

### **Nut Trees**

No homestead could be complete without an assortment of nut trees. The only problem with these types of trees is that they usually take a considerable amount of time to grow to maturity. However, in the interest of being complete, I would recommend planting one or two of your favorites. Choose those which grow best in your area and again if you can purchase dwarfs or miniatures do so as they mature much faster than normal trees. As a last note here, get as old of trees from the nursery as you can, it will shorten the time to maturity. One of the added advantages of many fruit trees is the ability to fabricate various dyes from its various components, some have medicinal properties that would be useful when the SHTF along with its usual wood working characteristics. Nuts are high in protein so if the animal population is drastically hunted out you can still get your nutritional requirements from your nut trees.

### **Citrus Trees**

These trees are full of nutrient however in Delaware I would need to keep them in containers and safely growing in my solarium rather than free growing outside. They do not take winter here very well. The advantage is that they are easy to grown and do so rather quickly. It would be beneficial to keep several different types of citrus fruits growing at all times. Fresh lemon juice is an effective cure for a host of different ailments including acting as an antibacterial cleansing agent and preventing many skin infections. It has been known to help in high blood pressure situations and cleansing of the liver. In an emergency it can be employed to stop someone from vomiting.

Other fruits would include limes and oranges which prevent scurvy. Orange leaves aid in acting as a mild diuretic, it will improve one's general skin health and it acts as a laxative. When created into an infusion the lime flowers could be used to treat stress and anxiety of which in a SHTF situation will be plentiful.

### **Cherry Tree**

Cherries are a useful fruit. They are used to make jam, jelly, pies, and wine. One could say that a cherry tree is a survivalist dream since it has so many useful applications. Cherries are known for treating gout while the bark and root can serve as a sedative and made into a cough syrup. The key to all our trees is to learn how to use them in the most effective way possible. Good luck in planting your fruit trees