

How much effort does it take to grow fruit?

Dr. Emily E. Hoover and Emily S. Tepe



UNIVERSITY
OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

Growing fruit means balancing expectations and effort

Because fruits are perennial plants, they require a bit more commitment than vegetables. Spend some time thinking about why you want to grow fruit. Do you want to spend more time outside? Do you want to make jam or pies to share with friends and family? Do you want to learn how to prune trees? Do you want to make wine or cider? Or do you simply want a few berries to put on your morning cereal? Your answers to questions like these will help you decide which fruits to grow and how much effort you're willing to put into it.

This chart shows the typical amount of effort and commitment it takes to achieve satisfaction in various aspects of growing fruit in Minnesota.

	Site selection	Wait before fruit	Fruit every year	Fruit blemishes	Maintenance
Strawberries	Some effort	Minimal effort	Minimal effort	Dedicated effort	Minimal effort
Raspberries	Some effort	Minimal effort	Minimal effort	Dedicated effort	Minimal effort
Blueberries	Dedicated effort	Some effort	Minimal effort	Some effort	Minimal effort
Currants Gooseberries	Some effort	Some effort	Minimal effort	Some effort	Minimal effort
Grapes	Some effort	Some effort	Minimal effort	Dedicated effort	Minimal effort
Plums Cherries Apricots	Some effort	Some effort	Some effort	Some effort	Some effort
Pears	Some effort	Dedicated effort	Some effort	Some effort	Some effort
Apples	Some effort	Dedicated effort	Some effort	Dedicated effort	Some effort

What do the colors mean?

Minimal effort

Some effort

Dedicated effort