

## Best Practices for School Orchards

### **Protocols:**

1. Research the appropriate varieties for your area, elevation, and climate.
  - Look around and observe what is already growing well in backyards, other orchards and gardens in your area.
  - Talk with the Agricultural Extension Agent in your area.
  - Talk-story with elders and others growing fruit trees in your area.
2. Create a list of the appropriate varieties. Decide distance between varieties, location to sun, water and good drainage.
3. Develop a detailed plan for the orchard. **Be able to answer all the questions below before buying and planting your school orchard. Your principal must agree with your plan before proceeding. This is very important.**

- **LOCATION**

- See below for environmental factors checklist
- Physical factors - water lines, proximity to fences, property lines, sewer, leach fields, pigs, sun, drainage, etc.

- **DESIGN**

- Placement of trees in Orchard area
- Protection of trees – do you need to fence from pigs? Do you need windbreaks?
- Groundcover
- Tree Guilds
- Successive harvesting
- Distance between varieties – Think ahead!
- Think about taller trees on the North side of the plot

- **STEWARDSHIP and PROTECTION**

- **Who will be in charge?**
- Watering/irrigation/feeding/pruning of the trees, especially when young
- Who picks the fruit?
- How is the fruit distributed?
- How will others learn about caring for and maintaining the orchard?
- What type of tools and training is needed?
- Fencing protect against pigs and fowl.

- **MAP the Orchard**

- Make sure a copy is kept in the school office files for others to reference.

### **Environmental Factors to consider checklist**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elevation                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sun path                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil type                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Orientation to the south |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soil depth before rock substrate     | <input type="checkbox"/> Prevailing winds         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Competition from other trees, hedges | <input type="checkbox"/> Rainfall - Water         |

Seasons

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Tree and varieties</b>	Full Size (diameter of tree circle/ and height)	Elevation	Harvest Season	NOTES, How to eat
<b>Quicker growing</b>				
Papaya	D: 3 - 6 ft H: 6 – 12 ft	Sea-level to 1500 ft.	9 months all year round	Salads Slice and Eat
Bananas - DWARF	D: 6 – 12 ft H: 6 – 12 ft	Sea-level to 2500 ft.	1 year- all year round	Peel and eat
Poha Berry	D: 4 ft H: 3 ft	Sea-level to 2500 ft.	Anytime fruit is ready	Out of Hand- remove jacket
<b>Citrus</b>				
Tangerine – <i>Satsuma,</i> <i>Fremont, Honey</i> Lemon Lime Tangelo Orange – <i>Washington Navel</i>	D: 15 – 20 ‘ H: 15 ft	Sea-level to 1500’	4 – 5 years WINTER	Pruning –  Juice/slice and eat
<b>Spices and Drinks</b>				
Cinnamon	D: 6-10’ H: 10-12 ‘	800-1800’	One month into the rainy season	See instructions on internet
Coffee	D: 5-8 ft. H: 8-10 ft.	Sea Level to 4,000’	Fall to winter	Harvest, clean, dry, roast
Cacao	D: 10-20 ‘ H: 10-15 ‘	800-2,000’	When pods are ripe. Inside pod scrapped is orange	Split pod, ferment, clean, dry, roast, grind.
Tea (drinking)	D: 4-5 ‘ H: 3-5 ‘	Sea Level to 4,000’	Flush of new leaves	Pick, roll, steam 1 min. dry
Cloves	D: 10-12’ H: 15-18’	800-1800’	Winter: clove is pink	Pick and dry
<b>LARGE Trees – slow growing</b>				
Ulu	D: 25-30’ H: 20-40’	Sea level to 3,000’	3 years – hard or ripe year round	Steam and eat
Avocado	D: 25-35’ H: 15-35’	Sea Level 3,000’	4 – 5 years seasonal by variety	Cut and eat
Macadamia Nut	D: 20-30’ H: 25-35’	Sea Level to 3,000’	4 – 5 years Falls on ground. Many varieties	Pick, dry, husk, crack
<b>TROPICALS</b>				

Jaboticaba	D: 10-12' H: 20-25'	800-1800'	5 – 7 years Multiple fruiting	Juice/out of hand Pick and eat
Surinam Cherry	D: 6-15' H: 8-10'	Sea Level to 3,000'	2 years 2x a year	Out of hand Pick and eat
Starfruit	D: 10-12' H: 10-12'	Sea Level to 1800'	1 - 2 years 2 times a year	Eat whole or slice Pick and eat
Guava	D: 10-20' H: 10-20'	Sea-level to 2000ft	Fall harvest. Some varieties different	Eat whole or slice, jam
Lilikoi/Passionfruit	D: Long vine H: you decide	To 1800 ft. trellis	1 - 2 years summer/fall Pick when yellow	Cut and scoop out
Pineapple - white	D: 3' H: 3'	Sea Level to 3,000'	1 - 2 years summer	Slice and eat
Fig	D: 10-12' H: 10-20'	Sea Level to 3,000'	1 - 2 years Spring/Summer/ Fall	Whole or cut
Dragon Fruit	D: you decide H:	Needs a trellis Sea level to 3,000'	1 - 2 years Multiple fruiting Pick with no green	Slice and eat
Mulberry – red, black	D: 10-15' H: 20-30'	Sea Level to 3,000'	1-2 years Summer pick when dark red	Eat whole