

# Gold Oriental persimmon is hardy in Eastern North Carolina

Oriental persimmon has fruit many times larger than wild persimmons and it has better quality.

The fruit resembles a large, ripe, soft tomato, only it is gold in color rather than red, describe N.C. Agricultural Extension Service specialists.

The attractiveness of the fruit and the tree's small size make it an excellent candidate for many home landscapes.

The tree is hardy in Eastern North Carolina, and the lower Piedmont. It will also do well further west if pro-

tected from cold weather. A planting site on the south side of the house is the type of location needed in the upper Piedmont.

Many different varieties of Oriental persimmons are available but pollination is often a problem. The Tanenashi, Hachiya, and Tamopon varieties, however, develop their fruit to maturity without pollination. For North Carolina the Tanenashi is the preferred variety. It is seedless and ripens in October.

One or two-year-old trees are better for transplanting

than are older trees, plant them in the fall, winter or early spring while trees are dormant. Space them about 14 to 20 feet apart. Oriental persimmon trees bear rather young with many producing fruit when three or four years old.

Thoroughly prepare the soil before planting. Loosen the soil to a depth of 12 to 15 inches unless the subsoil is already loose.

Oriental persimmon trees seem to thrive in most site conditions, however, they respond to fertilizer and care as do all fruit trees. One pound of fertilizer of a 1-2-1

ratio for each year of age is desirable. Excessive nitrogen can cause much of the fruit to drop. Two ounces of zinc sulfate per year of age may also be needed for zinc deficiency.

Pruning consists mostly of cutting out an occasional branch that is crowing a more important one. Remove any dead wood and cut back any limbs that grow out of proportion to the general symmetry and form of the tree. The wood tends to be brittle and breaks easily under a load of fruit or ice.



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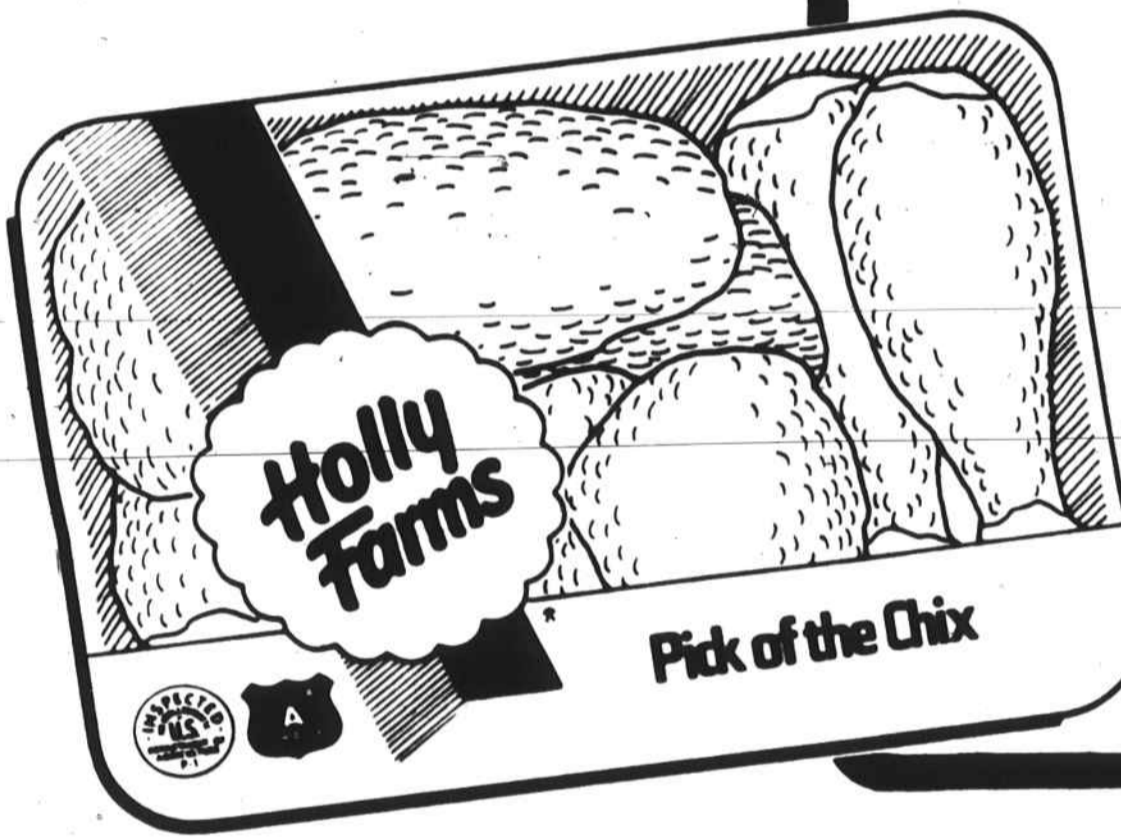
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