



Fruita Orchards



The orchards that lie within a mile or two of the visitor center are evident remnants of the pioneer community of Fruita, settled in 1880.

History

Early settlers planted the orchards as a cash crop and for subsistence. No more than 10 families lived in Fruita at any one time, and the last resident moved away in 1969. Today, the orchards are preserved and protected as part of the Fruita Rural Historic Landscape listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The orchards contain approximately 3100 trees including cherry, apricot, peach, pear, apple, plum, mulberry, almond and walnut. The National Park Service now maintains the orchards year round with historic cultural irrigation practices, pruning, mowing, pest management, planting, mapping and grafting.

Harvest

You are welcome to stroll in any unlocked orchard and consume ripe fruit while in the orchards. Fruit may not be picked in quantity until the designated harvest begins; orchards that are open for picking are signed as such. Fruit taken from the orchards must be paid

for. A self-pay station with scales, plastic bags, and signs listing fruit prices is located near the entrance of orchards open for fruit harvest. Please select only ripe fruit and leave the rest to ripen for other visitors.

Safety

Hand-held fruit pickers and ladders are provided to aid in picking. Never climb these historic trees. Please read the safety signs located near the orchard entrance before using orchard ladders. Be sure the ladder is on firm, level ground with the third leg fully extended

and the chains pulled tight. Do not stand on the top three rungs and avoid leaning to either side when picking. Children should not use the ladders unsupervised. The orchards can add much to your Capitol Reef visit. *Please act safely and treat these historic trees gently.*

Range of flowering and harvesting times

Flowering

Cherries	March 31–April 19
Apricots	February 27–March 20 (early) March 7–April 13(regular)
Peaches	March 26–April 23
Pears	March 31–May 3
Apples	April 10–May 6

Harvest

Cherries	June 11–July 7
Apricots	June 27–July 22 (early) June 28–July 18 (regular)
Peaches	August 4–September 6
Pears	August 7–September 8
Apples	September 4–October 17

Additional information is available on our website www.nps.gov/care which also links to Capitol Reef Natural History Association, a non-profit cooperating association that sells publications on Capitol Reef's cultural and natural history.

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Orchard	Fruit and Nut Trees
1. Mott	almond, apple, apricot, cherry, mulberry, peach, pear, plum, and walnut
2. Jackson	apple, apricot, grape, nectarine, peach, and pear
3. Guy Smith	apple, apricot and cherry, peach, and walnut
4. Abie Clarke	apple, apricot, cherry, peach, and pear
5. Cook	apple and apricot
6. Amasa Pierce	apple, apricot, pear,
7. Behunin	apple, apricot, cherry, and pear
8. Merin Smith	pecan
9. 'Tine Oyler N	apple, cherry, peach, pear, and plum
10. 'Tine Oyler S	apple, cherry, and pear
11. Holt	apple, apricot, and peach
12. Max Krueger	apple and apricot
13. Adams	almond, apple, apricot, cherry, peach, pear, plum, quince, and walnut
14. Johnson	apricot, cherry, grape, and pear
15. Doc Inglesby	apple, apricot, peach, pear, and walnut
16. Gifford	almond, apple, and pear
17. Chesnut	apricot and walnut
18. Cass Mulford	peach
19. Carrell	

