

## Mistakes to Avoid in Planning Tree Fruit and Tree Nut Orchards

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### Calls I have fielded in my 35 years

- Apple orchard retirement projects
- Grape vineyard proposals in cold climates
- Sea Buckthorn/Seaberry
- Filbert orchards
- Blueberries



### Why do these plans fail?

- Market
- Poorly adapted plant materials
- Lack of local infrastructure
- Lack of pest management alternatives
- Lack of operator skill/attention



### “Don’t make vast plans

### With half-vast ideas”



### Choosing plant materials

- What you enjoy eating/growing vs. what sells
- What the nursery has in stock vs. what you want
  - Rootstocks are important!
- Nursery scams
  - Selling plant material vs. a marketable crop
- Adapted to soil, climate, pest complex, operator skill

### Apples, Peaches

- Cultivar choice
  - Marketability
  - Season of ripening
- Rootstocks
- Packing & shipping
- Pick-your-own

## Apricots, Pears, Plums

- Spring frosts
- Fireblight
- Winter injury
- Market
- Tree size from lack of size-controlling rootstocks

## Blueberries

- Winter injury
- Soil pH
  - Want soil pH ~5.0
  - Utah soil pH ~7.5-8.0—and buffered
- Irrigation

## Miscellaneous Small Fruit

- Currants, gooseberries, Juneberries, honeyberries
- How to get fruit harvested
- Dropping
- Thorns
- Residual floral parts
- Processing required



## Strawberries

- Why no substantial pick-your-own strawberries in Utah?
- Safety valve for California industry
- California ships to Utah at a lower price than can be grown locally
- Who has time to pick strawberries?
- Harvest labor?
  - Pick fruit vs In & Out or Chik-fil-A



## Almonds

- Two almonds to be released soon (hopefully)
  - One soft shelled
  - One hard shelled
- Hardy to zone 6b
- Commercial potential?
- Infrastructure

## Hardy filberts

- Shrub type
- Small nuts
- Flower in late February early March
- Pest management



## Walnuts

- Black walnuts
- English walnuts
- Heartnuts
- Will survive and fruit
- Pest management
- Harvest/processing

## Pistachio

- Male & female trees
- Difficult to propagate
- Small nuts
- Alternate bearing
- Gummy
- Harvest? Processing?
- Infrastructure

## Why has this crop not been grown locally before?

- Climate
- Lack of improved cultivars
- Pest management
- Labor
- Infrastructure

**Not everyone else is  
intellectually challenged  
or timid  
or risk averse**

## Advice

- Stick with what works
- Get the best possible plant materials
- Know your market
- Have a pest management plan that works and is legal
- Labor
- **Don't make vast plans with half-vast ideas**

**•Questions?**