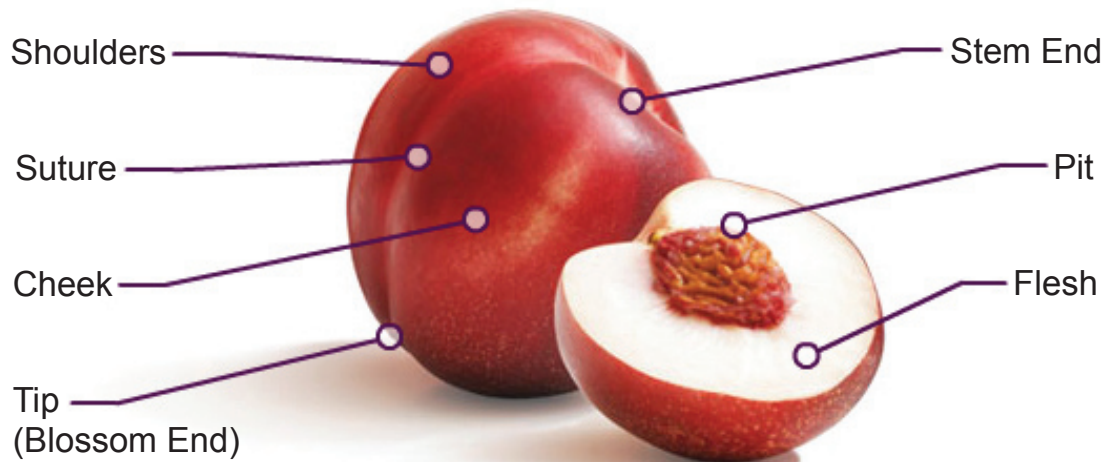




Harvest of the Month

Plums



Source: www.eatcaliforniafruit.org



Harvest of the Month

How Do Plums Grow?

Unlike other stone fruits, plum trees are adaptable to a wider range of climatic conditions. Both Japanese and European plums thrive where rainfall during the growing season is minimal (less than 30-45 inches annually). In winter, plum trees require pruning and a chilling, or rest, period (between 800-850 “chill hours”). In California, these are hours when the temperature falls below 45 F.

| | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Temperature | European cultivars best in northern areas; Japanese cultivars best in southern areas (Mediterranean climate) |
| Soil | Deep, well-drained, pH level between 5.5-6.5 |
| Exposure | Full sun, shelter from frost |
| Propagation | T- or chip-budded onto rootstocks |
| Reproduction | Honey bees or pollenizers |
| Planting | 10-20 feet apart in rows spaced 18-20 feet apart |
| Harvest Season | Spring through fall (peak in June, July, August) |
| Harvesting (fresh plums) | Hand-picked several times during a 7-10 day period |
| Harvesting (dried plums) | Mechanical, shake-and-catch methods |

For more information, visit:
www.uga.edu/fruit/plum.html