

PLUMS

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<p>The major difficulty in obtaining good fruiting of cultivated plum varieties in dooryard plantings result from poor adaptation to warm winter, lack of curculio control and improper pollination. Most plum varieties which bloom together are needed in the planting to assure pollination and a good set of the fruit.</p>	
VARIETIES	Excelsior -- Self fruitful -- recommended from the Gainesville area east and south; small, red fruit.
	Mariposa -- Self unfruitful -- very large greenish red fruit. NOTE: Although Excelsior is self-fruitful, it will produce better if planted with Mariposa as a pollinator.
	Gulf Gold -- Self Unfruitful -- gold fruit, dwarf
	Gulf Beauty -- Self Unfruitful -- red, early
	Gulf Ruby -- Self Unfruitful - red, sweet
	Gulf Blaze -- Self Unfruitful -- red
FERTILIZATION	A 6-6-6, 8-8-8 or similar mixture is recommended. About 1 1/2 pounds for each year of age of the tree is usually sufficient until a maximum of 15 pounds is reached. This may be split into two applications on sandy soils - February 15th and early June or immediately following harvest.
INSECTS	Plum curculio causes "wormy" fruit. Three applications of Malathion should give satisfactory control of this pest for the varieties of plums recommended. Cover trees thoroughly, including trunk and branches. For disease control spray with Captan or Benlate.
	1st application - when most petals have fallen.
	2nd application - about 10 days after first.
	3rd application - about 2 weeks after second.
SCALES	Spraying with 3% oil in Mid-January will improve bloom as well as control scale insects.
MALATHION	Applied for curculio control will aid in the control of scales.
PEACH TREE BORER	Is not as troublesome on plum trees as peach trees. If control is needed, spray with at least 3 sprays. Apply sprays about July 1st, August 1st, and September 1st. Use Thiodan or a mixture of Malathion plus Sevin. To make these sprays mix 4 tablespoons liquid concentrate per gallon of water. Then add 2 tablespoons of

	50% Sevin wettable powder. Do not spray Malathion within 7 days, or Sevin within 1 day of harvest. Borers already in wood will not be killed but must be dug out with a knife.
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