

# FGCU Food Forest

## Plant Database

### Persimmon (*Diospyros kaki*)

#### Quick Facts

Origin: Asia, China  
Description: Fruit Tree  
Uses: Eatable Fruit  
Harvest: Harvest just before fruit falls  
Flower: Small white

**General Description:** Persimmon is a deciduous tree growing to 25 ft. (7.6 m) high. It has ovate leaves, 3 in. to 7 in. (7.6-17.8 cm) long that are shiny on top. Persimmon flowers are yellowish white and 0.75 in. (1.9 cm) long. Staminate (male) flowers have 16 to 24 stamens, while pistillate (female) flowers have eight staminodes. The fruit is classified as a juicy berry. It is 3.5 in. (8.9 cm) in diameter and variable in shape, with a pale yellow, orange, or red exterior, and with orange flesh. There is an enlarged persistent calyx at its base. Fruits are usually set in clusters.



- **Season of Harvest:** Persimmons are harvested when mature but still firm, with color nearly fully developed. 'Maru' fruit is greenish yellow when ripe; 'Fuyu' and 'Hachiya' fruits are orange. The fruit is removed from the tree by clipping or breaking the stems, leaving the calyx lobes attached to the fruit (Figures 2, 4, 6). Persimmons must be handled carefully to avoid damage. Rough handling causes bruising and skin discoloration. Harvest season varies with elevation, being later at higher elevations.
- **Culinary Uses:** Persimmons are eaten fresh, dried, raw, or cooked. When eaten fresh they are usually eaten whole like an apple or cut into quarters, though with some varieties it is best to peel the skin first. One way to consume very ripe persimmons, which can have the texture of pudding, is to remove the top leaf with a paring knife and scoop out the flesh with a spoon. Riper persimmons can also be eaten by removing the top leaf, breaking the fruit in half and eating from the inside out. The flesh ranges from firm to mushy, and the texture is unique. The flesh is very sweet and when firm due to

being unripe, possesses an apple-like crunch. American persimmons and diospyros digyna are completely inedible until they are fully ripe.

<b>Persimmon</b>	
<b>Scientific Classification</b>	
Kingdom:	Plantae
(unranked):	Angiosperms
(unranked):	Eudicots
(unranked):	Asterids
Order:	Ericales
Family:	Ebenaceae
Genus:	<i>Diospyros</i>

### **Sources**

[http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/crop/crops/i\\_persim.htm](http://www.extento.hawaii.edu/kbase/crop/crops/i_persim.htm)

Vegetable Gardener

<http://www.vegetablegardener.com/item/4506/growing-persimmons>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persimmon>