

Who we are

Backyard Fruit Growers (BYFG) started in 1990 as a quarterly assembly for exchange of information among amateurs in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, who wanted to produce good fruit for the family, propagate heirloom varieties, try new varieties and flavors, and respect and improve the backyard environment.

Seasonal meetings now attract old-timers full of wisdom, as well as first-timers full of wonder and eagerness.

We have lively discussions, exchange opinions, and hold demonstrations of pruning, grafting, planting, spraying, and training.

We visit local backyard orchards and get together to taste our harvest in the fall. We try to pass on the knowledge and skills to the next generation.

BYFG is an informal and volunteer organization. We do not have a central library or a paid staff. Years of experience, knowledge, and wisdom lie within the individuals who choose to participate and share with the group.

The best way to learn is to participate in events and workshops as announced, meet with other BYFGs, and ask a lot of questions. To keep in touch with schedules and events, subscribe to the quarterly newsletter.

For more information visit the BYFG website: www.byfg.org

Annual Schedule of BYFG events

January Winter Meeting

Featured are practical presentations for individuals of all skill levels. The annual preview of upcoming BYFG events precedes a guest speaker on a fruit-related topic. Focus groups meet to discuss areas of interest, such as getting started, fruit varieties, pollinating bees, pruning and training systems, and organic and conventional insect and disease controls. Held at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA, bring a bag lunch and visit with other BYFG's. No charge for subscribers.

February Workshops

Held at the Farm and Home Center, Lancaster, PA, and hosted by the Backyard Fruit Growers of Lancaster, PA. Basic information and training in areas such as planning a home orchard, rootstock selection, raising pollinating bees, fruit tree spraying, and hands-on pruning in a local apple orchard. Bring a bag lunch and visit with other BYFGs. Fee charged by BYFG.

March Grafting Seminar

Hands-on training from experienced BYFG old-timers on grafting apple or pear varieties onto rootstocks. Grafting supplies and rootstock are for sale. Grafting scions, usually over a hundred varieties, are shared. Graft and take home several little trees to plant. Bring a bag lunch, visit, learn, and share your skills with other BYFG's. Must be a subscriber by March 1st. No charge for subscribers.

August Summer Tour

Tour the backyard orchard of another BYFG. Swap ideas and budwood. Practice summer bud and chip grafting with hands-on demonstrations. Picnic and share your early season fruit harvest with other BYFGs. No charge for subscribers.

September Pawpaw Tours

Join our carpool caravans to see and taste native Lancaster County pawpaws along the banks of the Susquehanna River and in the backyards of fellow BYFGs. Save the seeds and start your own pawpaw trees. Bring a bag lunch. No charge for subscribers.

October Harvest Days

The Landis Valley Museum Harvest Days event draws thousands of folks to experience life on an 1800's Pennsylvania German farm. In the Antique Apple Market BYFG's display and sell their homegrown fruit and help the visitors sample and compare heirloom and modern apple varieties. Watch how apple butter and cider are made and join other harvesting activities. LVM entrance fee charged.

October BYFG Tasting

Bring samples of your own harvest to share at the BYFG tasting table loaded with over one hundred varieties. Taste apples, pears, persimmons, and pawpaws, as well as kiwis, grapes, and exotic fruits. Compare flavors and plan which varieties you might graft and plant in your own backyard.

Woodbank is an annual listing of hundreds of fruit cultivars grown and swapped by Backyard Fruit Growers. Consult the list to source varieties of fruit available from BYFG subscribers

To participate with Backyard Fruit Growers, please subscribe to our Newsletter. The Newsletter is published four times per year – January, March, August, and October. Your subscription will begin with the next available issue.

___ Two- year household subscription -\$15

Newsletter will also be emailed to you in pdf format

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Name _____

Street _____

Town _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Mail this completed form and check to “BYFG” to:

**BYFG c/o Howard Frysinger
31 Seminary Road
Glenmoore, PA. 19343**

Questions email to
byfg.events@gmail.com



Backyard Fruit Growers
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Are you interested in connecting with local people to share practical information and experienced advice about growing good fruit in your own backyard?