

Feasible Fruit



A brief Introduction



An Overview

- **Feasibility!**
- **General principles**
 - Site selection
 - Soil preparation
 - Tree selection
 - Tree planting
 - Pest/disease management
- **Regional Spotlights**
- **Questions**



Feasibility

- **Don't let all the info overwhelm you; it is to help you.**
- **If you can't do everything we talk about, still plant the tree.**
- **In general, people who plant trees get more fruit than people who don't!**
- **In the morning sow your seed, and in the evening do now withhold your hand; for you do not know which will prosper, either this or that, or whether both alike will be good. —Eccles. 11:6**



General Principles

- **Site selection**
- **Soil preparation**
- **Tree selection**
- **Tree planting**
- **Pest/disease management**



Site selection

- **Full sun—important!**
- **Fertile soil—important** Don't make the lazy landclearer's error.
- **Higher ground—beneficial** (especially with early-blooming crops)
- **Northern slope-beneficial**



A bright sun with rays shining against a blue sky. The sun is positioned in the upper left quadrant, with its rays spreading out across the frame. The background is a solid, vibrant blue.

Full sun—the life-giving rays

*Fertile soil—What is the Lazy
Landclearer's Error?*

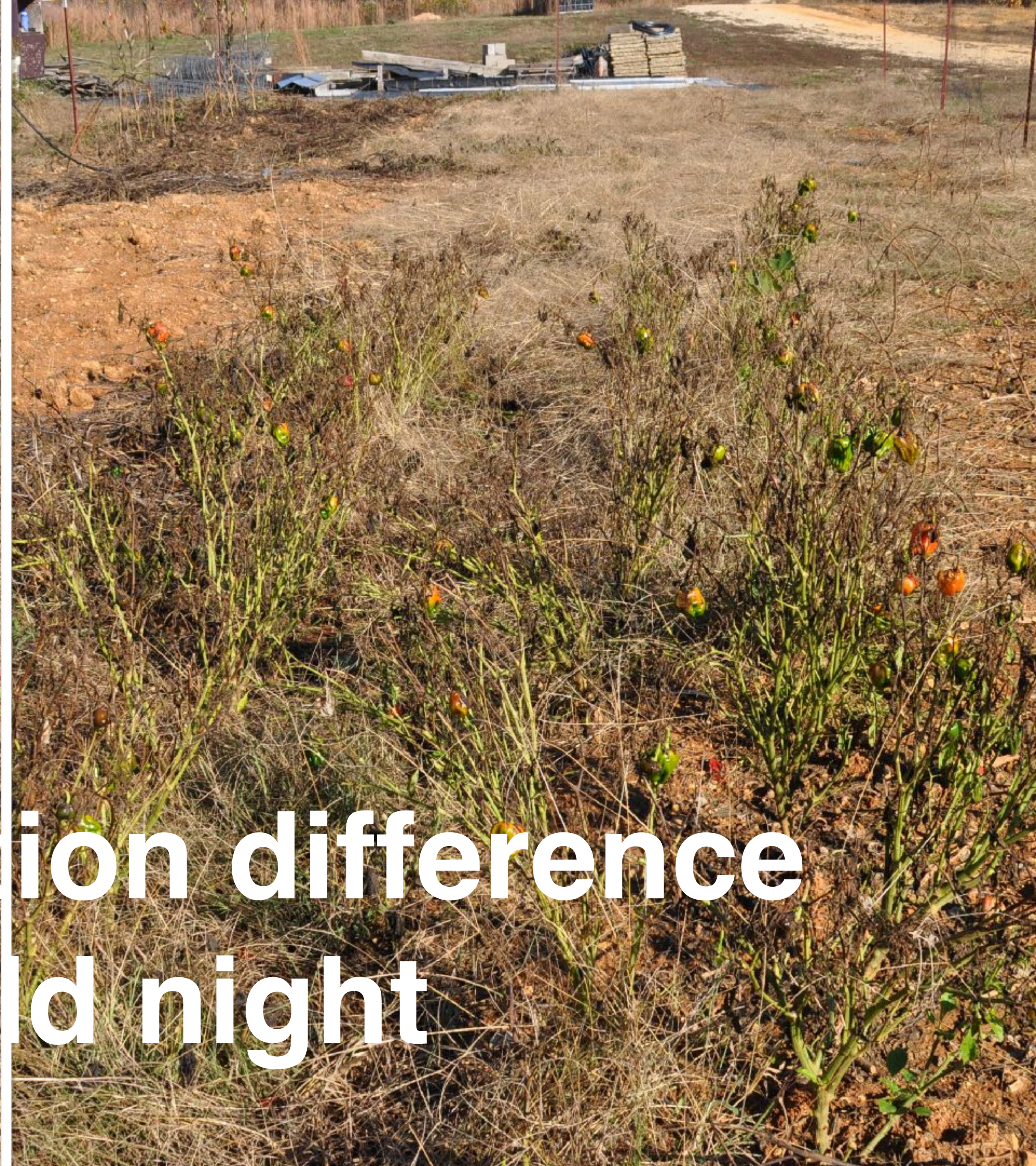


Lazy Landclearer's site of choice



More desirable site

*Higher Ground—Why is it
helpful?*



**80 ft. of Elevation difference
on a cold night**

*Northern slopes—Wouldn't
southern be better?*



S. Slope=volatile temps.
N. Slope=stabler temps.

Soil preparation

- **Do your best...and *plant the tree.***
- **Basics**
 - Dig hole quite a bit bigger than the roots.
 - incorporate organic matter/compost.
 - Provide fertilizer.
- **Taking it further—using a soil test**
 - Start a year before planting and adjust soil pH.
 - Also address basic nutrition.

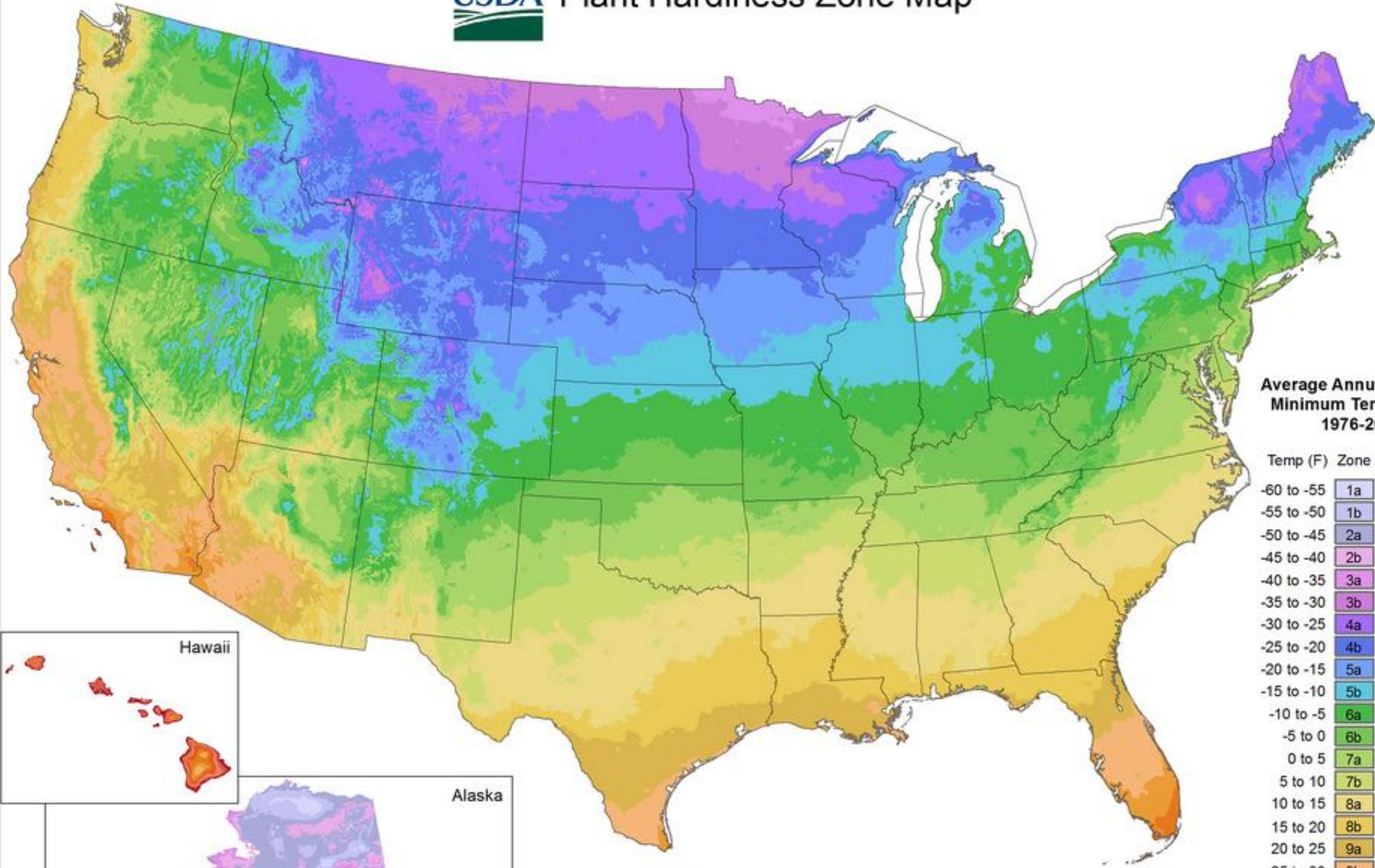


Tree selection

- **Selecting species**
 - Getting in the right ballpark—USDA zone map
 - Fine-tuning your selections—*Local observation*
- **Selecting variety.**
 - Know your challenges.
 - Select based on those
- **Ensuring pollinization**—Make sure you either 1) have self-fertile trees or 2) have trees that will successfully pollinize each other.

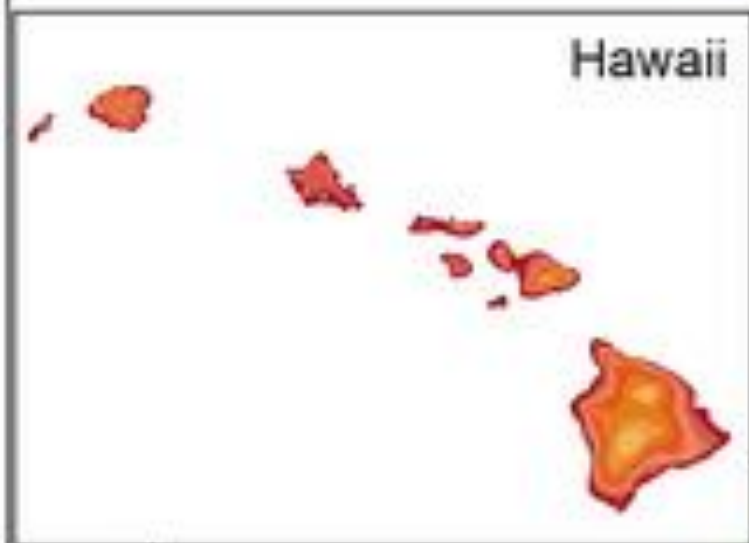


USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map



Average Annual Extreme Minimum Temperature 1976-2005

Temp (F)	Zone	Temp (C)
-60 to -55	1a	-51.1 to -48.3
-55 to -50	1b	-48.3 to -45.6
-50 to -45	2a	-45.6 to -42.8
-45 to -40	2b	-42.8 to -40
-40 to -35	3a	-40 to -37.2
-35 to -30	3b	-37.2 to -34.4
-30 to -25	4a	-34.4 to -31.7
-25 to -20	4b	-31.7 to -28.9
-20 to -15	5a	-28.9 to -26.1
-15 to -10	5b	-26.1 to -23.3
-10 to -5	6a	-23.3 to -20.6
-5 to 0	6b	-20.6 to -17.8
0 to 5	7a	-17.8 to -15
5 to 10	7b	-15 to -12.2
10 to 15	8a	-12.2 to -9.4
15 to 20	8b	-9.4 to -6.7
20 to 25	9a	-6.7 to -3.9
25 to 30	9b	-3.9 to -1.1



Tree planting

- **Plant most trees in spring.**
- **Prune vigorously at time of planting.**
- **Keep training in mind.**
- **Ask God's blessing.**



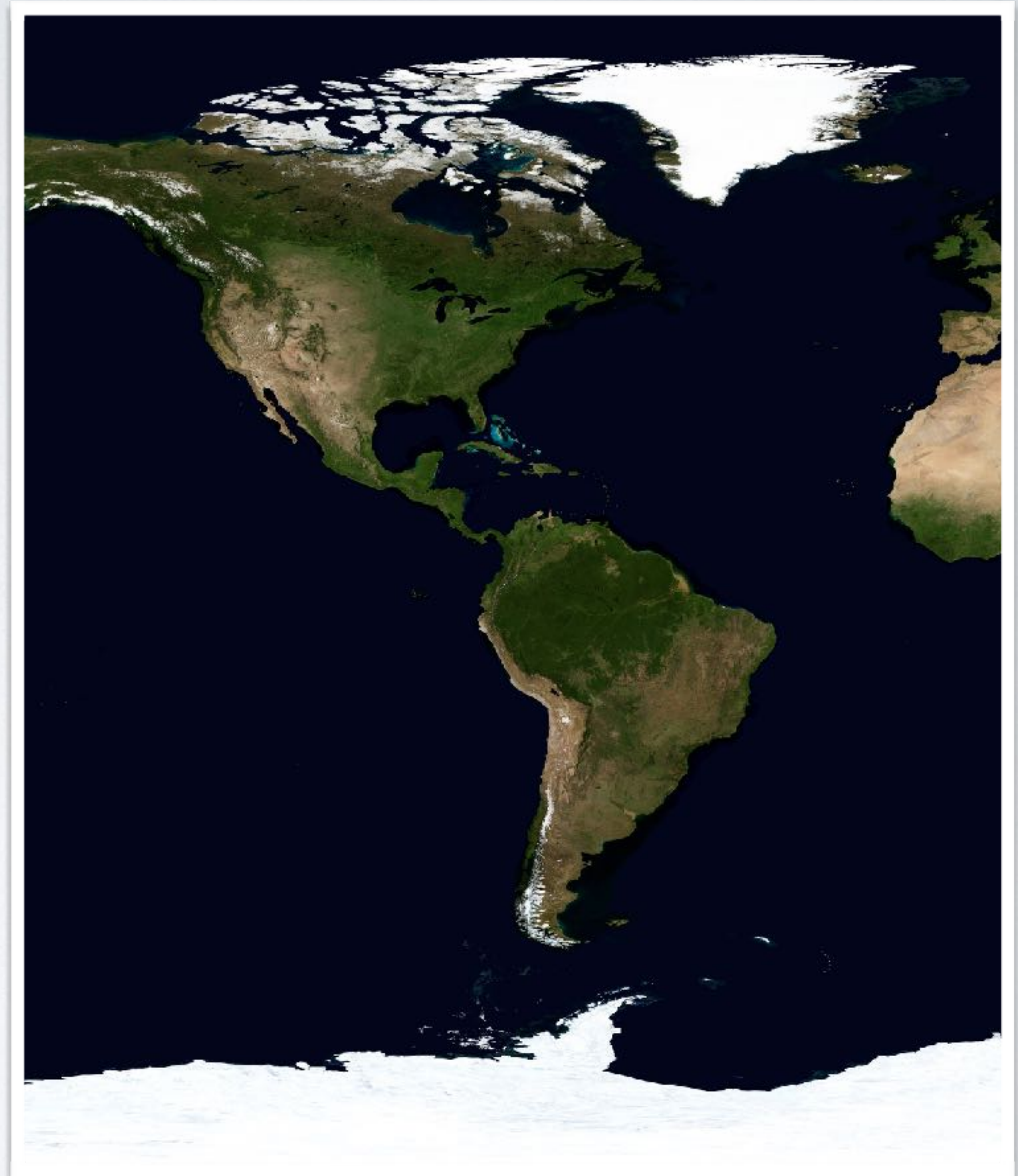
Pest/disease management

- **Identify your enemies! Different areas have different pests and diseases.**
- **Make a plan based on this information.**



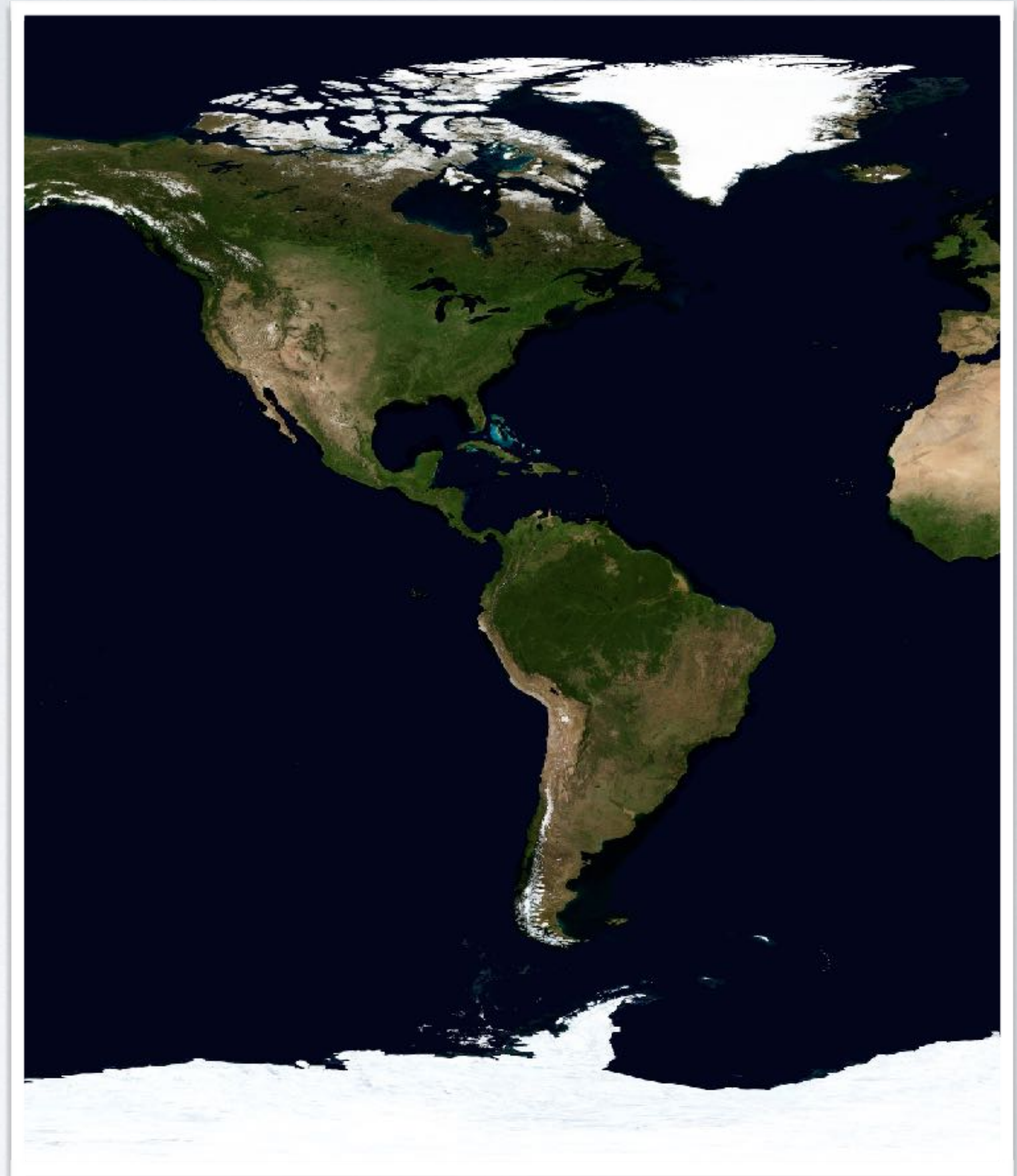
Regional Spotlights

- I interviewed orchardists in different parts of the continent.
- Asked 3 questions.
- Compiled answers to give *region-specific info* and to give contacts for further research.



Three Questions

- **What are your top 3 challenges to fruit growing?**
- **What 3 fruits grow best in your area?**
- **What 2 pieces of advice would you give someone who is planting a new orchard in your area?**



Paul Miller— Gainesville, FL

- **Top challenges**—Late freezes which kill blooms, diseases (namely *Botryosphaeria*), and lack of minor elements in the soil
- **Best fruit crops**—blueberries, persimmons, pears, and stone fruits (peach/plum)
- **Top pieces of advice**—**1)** Get organic matter into soil (make proper compost and *address minor elements*) **2)** Decide on management practices for your orchard. Think big. How large do you want trees to be (determined by rootstock, pruning, training). How will you protect from cold? How will you harvest?
- **Phone number**—(352) 514-3858



Jamie Swingle— Centerville, TN

- **Top challenges**—Late frost (especially harmful to peaches), Japanese beetles (especially harmful to plum and cherry), humidity/too much rain
- **Best fruit crops**—Blueberries (require minimal maintenance), Pears, Apples
- **Top pieces of advice**—**1)** Fence the orchard before planting trees to protect from deer. **2)** Manage soil moisture by locating orchard on a slope (south slope is nice) so water can drain away from trees. Also install underground drain tile if necessary to manage excess water.
- **Phone number**—(931) 729-0506



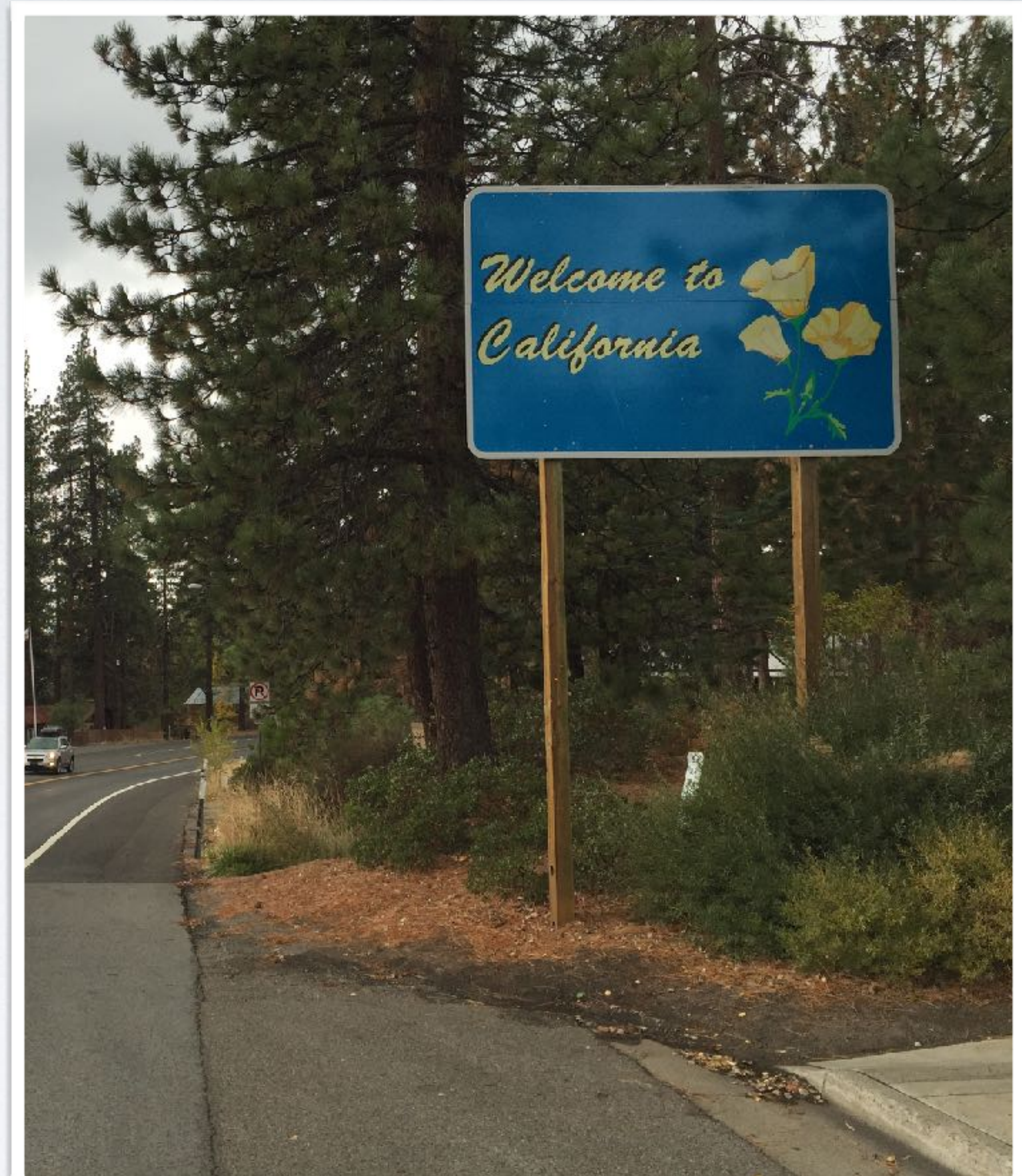
Jerry Travers— Meriden, CT

- **Top challenges**—Brown rot disease, fabraea leaf spot disease (on pear), apple scabe
- **Best fruit crops**—The variety you choose is just as important, maybe more important, than the species you choose to grow. **Clapp Favorite** (pear), **Baldwin** (apple), **Concord** (grape) do well.
- **Top pieces of advice**— **1)** Know what varieties do well in your area and only plant those. **2)** Look for good air drainage. This means selecting higher ground for orchard cultivation so that the cold air can drain away from fruit trees.
- **Phone number**—(203) 686-1425



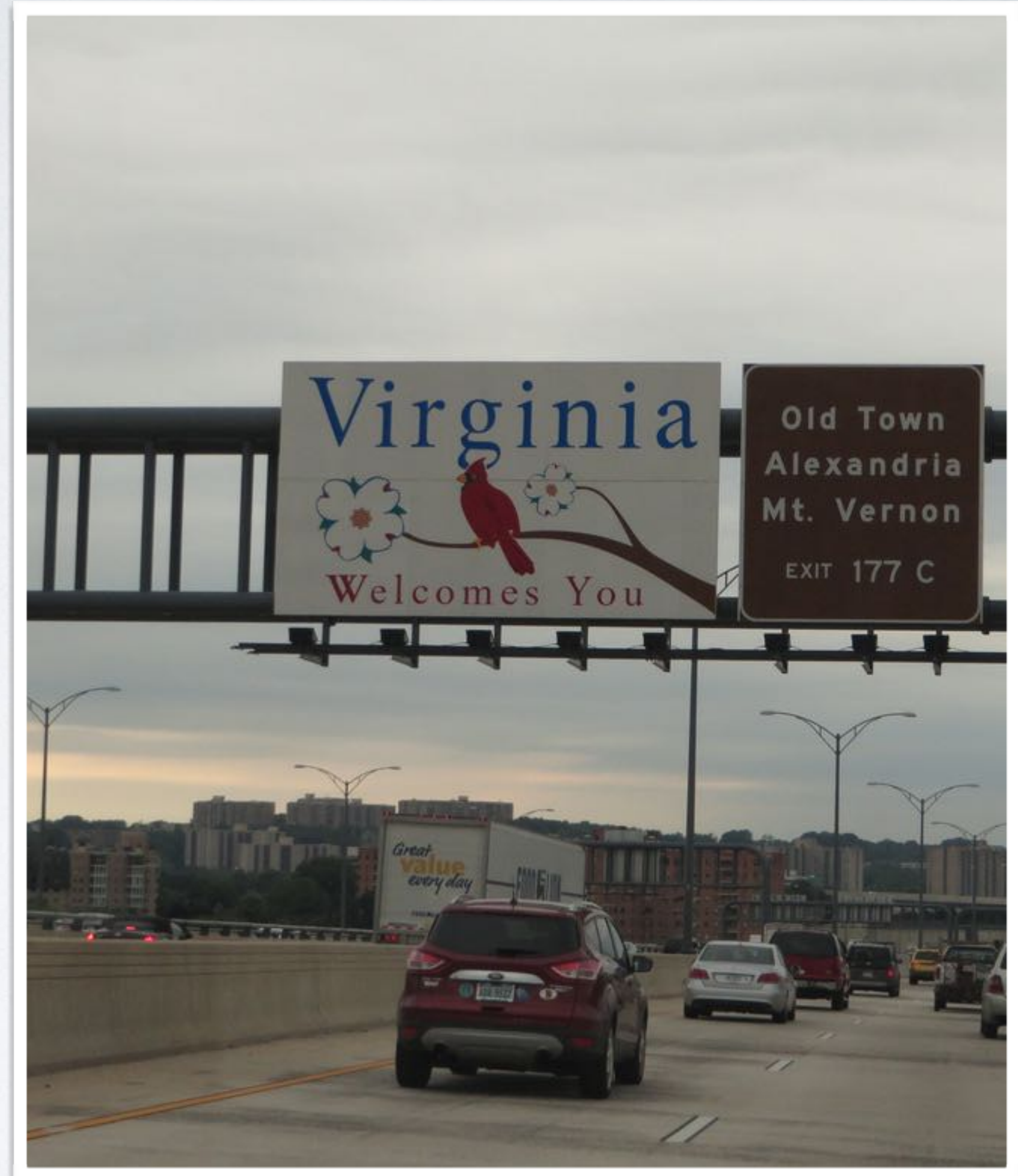
Lynn Hoag— Placerville, CA

- **Top challenges**—Depleted and shallow soils, getting right materials for tree planting, animal pressure (deer, squirrels, gophers, coons)
- **Best fruit crops**—Peaches/nectarines, apricots, persimmons (Plant different varieties that ripen at different times.)
- **Top pieces of advice—1)** Get a soil test from International Ag Lab and recommendations, **2)** call him for free consultation (get in contact with him before sending off sample if you want his input), **3)** stay away from poisons (roundup and similar products, GMO's)
- **Phone number**—530-622-4967



Edible Landscaping Nursery—Afton, VA

- **Top challenges**—Most popular commercial fruits are susceptible to plum curculio (an insect pest) and codling moth. Stone fruits are susceptible to brown rot. (Many of the fruit species we sell are easy to grow, however.)
- **Best fruit crops**—Persimmon, Jujube, and Mulberry
- **Top pieces of advice—1)** Only plant apples that are not susceptible to fire blight and cedar-apple rust. **2)** Only plant peaches if you are willing to professionally manage them.
- **Nursery website**—ediblelandscaping.com



Rudy Harnisch— Creston, B.C.

- **Top challenges**—Deer, water, insects
- **Best fruit crops**—Cherries, apples, apricots
- **Top pieces of advice**—**1)** Avoid frost pockets by careful selection of location. **2)** Look for the right kind of soil to plant in.
- **Phone number**—250-254-2524



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Questions?

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**Please don't hesitate to email
any questions!**