Capitol Reef National Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fruita Orchards

The orchards along the Fremont River and Sulphur Creek are remnants of the pioneer community of Fruita, settled in 1880. These relics of the area's history serve as a connection to Fruita's pioneer agricultural tradition and embody a living connection between local residents and their history and culture. They also provide food to visitors and park employees.

The trees survive due to a delicate balance between the local climate and the availability of irrigation water. As the climate changes, warmer and drier conditions increase concerns for water availability, and add new challenges to the management of the historic orchards.

History

No more than 10 families lived in Fruita at any one time; the last resident moved away in 1969. These early settlers planted the orchards as a cash crop and for subsistence. Today, the orchards are preserved and protected as part of the Fruita Rural Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The orchards contain approximately 2,000 trees, including cherry, apricot, peach, pear, apple, plum, mulberry, quince, almond, pecan, and walnut. Many are heirloom varieties. The National Park Service maintains the orchards year-round through pruning, mowing, pest management, planting, mapping, grafting, and historic irrigation methods.

Harvest

- You are welcome to walk through any unlocked orchard.
- Check at the visitor center for information on orchards that are open for fruit picking. Fruit may not be harvested and taken from the orchard until the orchard is posted as open for picking.
- You may sample ripe fruit in any orchard open for picking. There is no charge for fruit consumed in the orchards.
- Fruit taken from the orchards must be paid for. A self-pay station, scale, and sign listing fruit prices is located near the entrance of orchards open for fruit harvest.
- Please select only ripe fruit and leave the rest to ripen for other visitors.
- Read and follow the ladder safety signs posted in the orchards.

Safety

Please be safe and treat these historic trees gently!

- **Never** climb these historic trees.
- When orchards are open for picking, hand-held fruit pickers and ladders are provided to aid in picking.
- Read the safety signs located near the orchard entrance before using orchard ladders.
- Be sure the ladder is on firm, level ground with the third leg fully extended and the chains pulled tight. Do not stand on the top three rungs and avoid leaning to either side when picking.
- Children should not use the ladders unsupervised.

Typical Range of Flowering and Harvesting Times *(varies widely by year)*

	Flowering	Harvest
Apricots:	early March to mid-April	late June to mid-July
Peaches:	late March to late April	late July to early Sept.
Pears:	late March to early May	early August to early Sept.
Apples:	early April to early May	mid-August to mid-October

Additional Information

Call the park's fruit hotline for information on fruit availability and harvest dates:
(435) 425-3791, option 1, then option 5.

Regular updates are also posted online:
www.facebook.com/CapitolReefNPS
www.twitter.com/CapitolReefNPS

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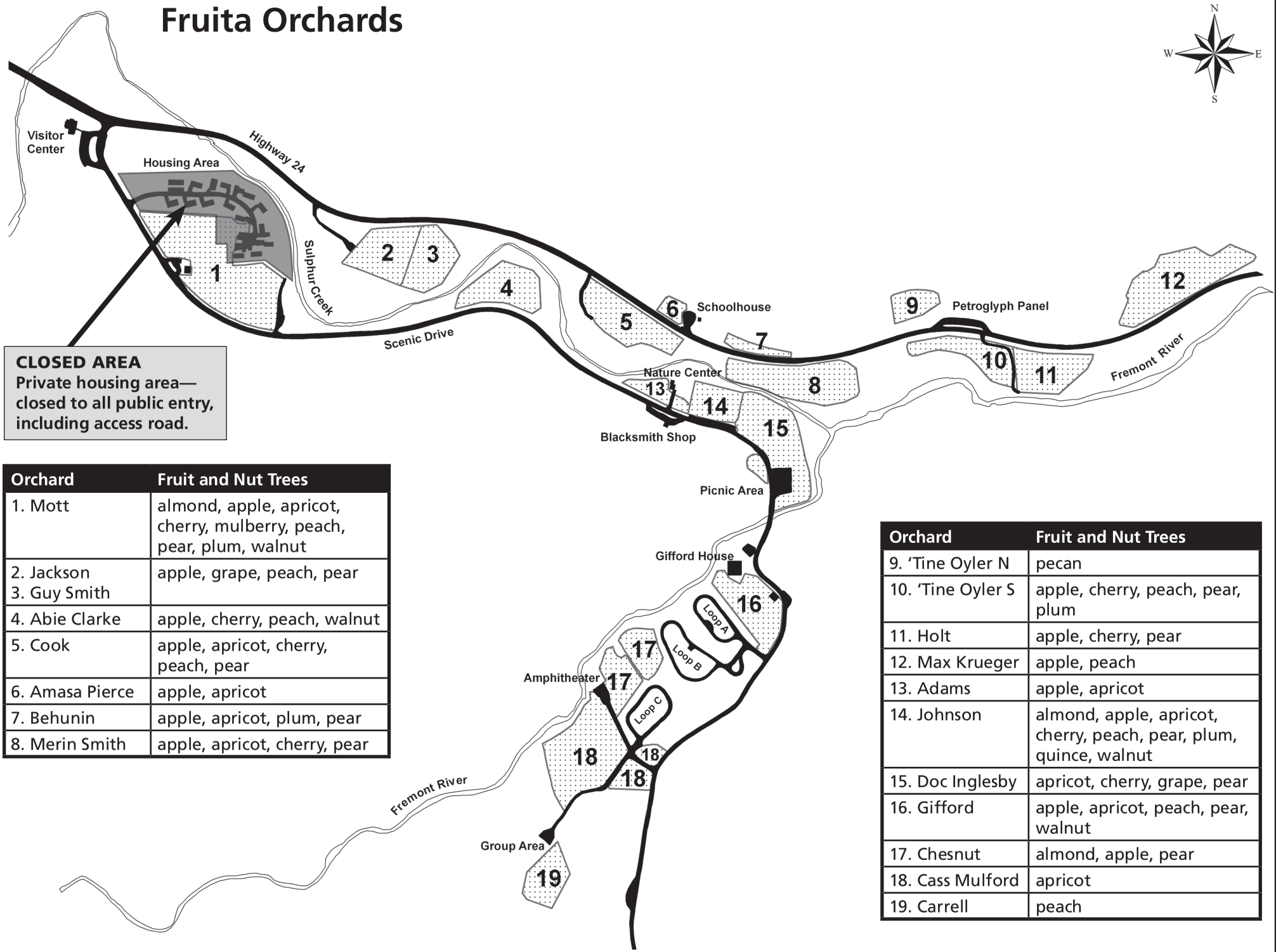

CLOSED AREA
Private housing area—closed to all public entry, including access road.

Orchard	Fruit and Nut Trees
1. Mott	almond, apple, apricot, cherry, mulberry, peach, pear, plum, walnut
2. Jackson 3. Guy Smith	apple, grape, peach, pear
4. Abie Clarke	apple, cherry, peach, walnut
5. Cook	apple, apricot, cherry, peach, pear
6. Amasa Pierce	apple, apricot
7. Behunin	apple, apricot, plum, pear
8. Merin Smith	apple, apricot, cherry, pear

Orchard	Fruit and Nut Trees
9. 'Tine Oyler N	pecan
10. 'Tine Oyler S	apple, cherry, peach, pear, plum
11. Holt	apple, cherry, pear
12. Max Krueger	apple, peach
13. Adams	apple, apricot
14. Johnson	almond, apple, apricot, cherry, peach, pear, plum, quince, walnut
15. Doc Inglesby	apricot, cherry, grape, pear
16. Gifford	apple, apricot, peach, pear, walnut
17. Chesnut	almond, apple, pear
18. Cass Mulford	apricot
19. Carrell	peach