Good afternoon and thanks for joining us. I'm Judy Simpson. One of the many joys of living in Vermont is being able to enjoy the fruits of your own garden. And now there's a book that has all the information you need to successfully grow fruits at home. The fruit gardener's bible can help everything from strawberries and raspberries to work trick fruits like apples and pears. UVM extension horticulturist Leonard Perry put decades of his experience and knowledge into the fruit gardeners bible and as with me this afternoon to tell us more it's great to see you again.

Leonard.: It's great to be here.

Judy.: Congratulations on the book I understand that it was released in January of 2012.

Leonard.: Right Judy and this is a culmination of a couple years of work. Basically this is some of the viewers that have gardens into grown fruits before may know the fruit and berries for the home garden by Louis Hill. This is a revision a total revision of that book by Louis which came out in 1992. You can imagine in 20 years a lot has changed both in content. This about 95% different plus that was black and white this is full color throughout. That was a small format this is a large format so a lot of changes.

Judy.: How did it come about that you're going to rewrite this?

Leonard.: I've worked with Louis since coming here Vermont. He was a grower and the northeast kingdom and in is passing a couple years ago after that story publication live also work with revising manuscripts and so forth asks me if I'd
like to revise this so I jumped at the opportunity. It was a real learning experience and a couple years later four revisions and here we have it.

Judy.: Wow is this written for our region or the whole country?

Leonard.: No Judy this is for the whole country and they're very cognizant of that and want to make sure that it's for the Midwest and west. A lot appropriate for the northeast and Vermont but also the rest of the country. That was part of the problem but also now it's great with the Internet because there are some great sites. Basically most everything a check with a least three sites that were basically extension or nurture ease so really reliable information. Even then a lot of conflict in information that was probably one of the hardest challenges to sort out and that's why a lot of places you'll see a range of values not one value for a yield or whatever.

Judy.: Which is why so important to have something like this because you can look forever and find all different kinds of information and what should you pick?

Leonard.: Exactly in just fine in one place to. Some of the things ended up having to come up with took forever an hour to just for one fact.

Judy.: Let's glance again of the cover you said its color throughout.

Leonard.: It is color throughout and also there's a lot a great photos from professional photographers. Also some great botanical art will take a look at. Basically is four parts the main introduction and how use and design fruits then getting right into small fruits and tree fruits then finishing up a some of the basics and resources. Just a show some examples from inside here's an idea for using. I think I may try this this year too simple colanders with chain put on them hang them up and grow some strawberries. Probably the hill type vs. the running type. I think that's a great idea there several ideas like that in there to try. Something like this this is a pear trellis or arbor to walk through with pears hanging down. This is just so inspiring there's a lot of inspiring photos in this book. Speaking of pears, here's an example of different types of Pears what I did was add for hear some of the titles. These are the captions of the photos in the book but you can see some of the various different types and ranger varieties again. Same thing was the plums arranger varieties some emphasis throughout the book on the heirlooms. This is a green gauge plum in the foreground and one of the heirlooms compared to more traditional types of plum. Of course cherry is another tree fruit just and real luscious makes me want to eat some cherries. This is a Morello type of sour cherry compared to
the sweet cherries. They stick tend to be a little bit more hearty also called amerail there also called pie cherries because you make pies of these then again these tend to be more hard even some of the sweet ones. Of course the book covers brambles and not only blackberries but there are many types. Here's a black raspberry which doe sucker like the red. There bit less hardy than the red but there are a couple more common choices Bristol in Jewel. There are some good examples of cultivars and each of these fruits throughout. Here's a good example this is great picture if you ever raise great. These are cabernet Grapes which are more the last and in southwest again you can see how these would grow the book also covers ones for the cold as climates right in Minnesota of some of the cold hardy once. One of the things with grapes that you want to do that the caption mentions. The first couple years so vines can get set up before you start letting it fruit as hard as that may be. Of course blueberries we cover that as one of the fruits and there's different types of course we cover high bush the half high and low bush as far as heights and of course the southern high bush too. A lot of different varies we cover. I thought this is just a great photo a close-up look about pollination this is the bee and what it looks like pollinating. He's covered in the pollen how the bees spread it around. Also to help the bees with this idea to plant wildflower it's in the orchards. Not only does it look really nice as you pass through it that the growth really helps the bees and other pollinators. As far as getting into some of the other topics how to topics. Here's a photo of pruning espalier just above the bud in the summer. Probably too late before the summer because it would stimulate new growth but you don't want to do it first thing in the spring for those that stimulates the growth which you really have to keep up with is that. Then we get into some pictures of the not so nice. Things are important to the diseases and pests. Apple scab what that looks like and most of the major pests who've had photos in the book here is one that coddling moth which is a problem with as you see apples pears, and others. It makes larvae that gets in their mix or warm and as you said we use quotes throughout which is great. The only thing worse than a worm and an apple is half worm. That's something you want to watch out for. And this is really gross.

Judy.: What is that?

Leonard.: That's a black not fungus disease and it gets on cherries plums in peach is in fact if I saw one this fall on and ornamental cherry and someone's yard which was covered with these. When we talk about the controls on these the book emphasizes organic or sustainable. Here's a close-up of a grape with the larvae on that. The main thing is a pest the causes wormy Grapes. Look for the wedding on that you can pick off infested. One of the keys to a lot of control is cleaning up those drop leaves in the fall on any of these fruits. That
will get a lot of disease and pests including this one. One that's very common a lot of gardeners notice on flowers is botrytis or gray mold disease looks just like cream old here it is on a strawberry. Air circulation really helps with that. You see a more in damp areas and damp seasons. Now I mention the botanical art. He is a good example of the depth for planting strawberries too low just right and too high on the right. You want a crown just below the soil level but not too deep. There some examples of that throughout the book and here's one on compost. Basically how you make in layers with the dark on the top of each one is a little bit of compost are manure and then one part of greens and the rest browns 2 to 3 parts. The greens being things like grass clippings and the browns being things like leaves. Adding the nitrogen and carbon respectively in compost. Just some examples of what you might find in the book.

Judy.: As a great photos in our illustrations I like the fact that you also have real photos of pests is well. Speaking of pasts were the biggest ones deer.

Leonard.: Deer are big one we've talked about these before and of course some pests the four legged and flying types of birds as of course the and we talk about art about the netting you can put over and how to do that and some others. But deer in particular deserve a mention so I brought a few pictures. If you just add a few bush's or shrubs you can fence them in some way. I tend to just put stakes around with some string. Far enough away to keep the deer away so they don't noble through the netting or over the top of it that's not closed in on the top. Another solution if they're not really high deer history something like a clothesline and having some flag from it so deer see as there. I tried fishing line which is good if you don't have too much pressure but minor right near where the deer walk so they walk right through don't see it and get tangled up. Since I'm going to fishing line and more flagging its worth a lot better. If that doesn't work you might try an electric fence a simple single strand wire baited with peanut butter every 3 feet put a little foil coach was some peanut butter in it become up take a smell get the nose zapped in that basically unless they really hungry should ward them off. It's fairly effective and inexpensive way. If not you have to go to the fence. We can do high fencing which most people are familiar with maybe a foot high but you can buy a lower one here it's a good illustration of that slanted outward. So the deer even if it was one strand could jump it. They see that there are many strands and they rarely try because they don't think they can jump the whole and get inside so it tends to keep them away. That's a really effective method without having to go really high.
Judy.: Now an important part of fruits is pruning which is perhaps the biggest challenge or mystery gardeners. Was so one photo earlier on training some new growth but how do cover pruning and this new book.

Leonard.: We saw that photo earlier of the espalier and a couple more we have on that to show but basically there's a whole section on pruning that talks about the main types and each chapter does specific on each one. Some of the main points as the tree and what type of growth and what type of leader. 211 in the center or ones on the outside. Another third to keep in mind is types of pruning cuts. Hear you have two types were heading which is taking a bridge back just a little bit or part way that stimulates a lot of growth behind the cut or thinning where you take it right out of the base where it comes off the trunk. That's to open it up a bit more. I mentioned the central leader with one branch going up. Here in the gray you have grayed out some of the branches that you take out to open it up and basically leave that one central one. That's the kind you do for a lot of trees or after a few years if you take that out and let some of the sidelines, it's called a modified leader. Most any fruit tree can probably get by with that except once they grow outward. Things like peaches, Japanese plums that you want to do what's called an open or vase shape. It's just that the more of a vase shape you open up the center cut it out. Once it starts growing will let the outside branches go up. Also with the trees a lot of times if they tend to grow upward you want to spread those branches. That ended be stronger and have more frame. You can do that with weights you can do it with stakes as we see on the left. On the right if they're very young branches or young tree you can use clothespins and that pushes them out for your two and gets them set up. Here you see an espalier. There are several types that we illustrate in the book. The great are here is a tiered layer horizontal layer here is a candle shape. Then a fan shape and here's a diagram and here's a picture with a cherry how it's done up against the wall. Can really see how that works. Those are just some examples of the espalier. Then this of course it is a hedge. It's an open hedge you can see when apples and pears are good for that kind of esplalier.

Judy.: Excellent. We definitely covered a lot of key points. What about some of the main fruits the less common fruits because we talked about apples and pears but how about some of the less common ones.

Leonard.: This a should mention is a book for tempered fruits if you want to grow oranges or grapefruit probably not possible here in the north country but we don't cover those but we do cover some of the ones that are more exotic. I'll mention that they have a website with a lot more of these here's an example of one I grew up with them the south that some maypop. It is a vine and you can
see there's the fruit on it. It's just beautiful the passion flower is a great plant that. It tastes kind of like guava and you eat it kind of like a pomegranate. Now the Chinese State court jujube in effect these fruits were dried and candied and that's where the original jujubes came from. Not now but this was another tree that gets to about 10 to 15 feet tall. Really it's a zone six which is Southern New England they're right when the reddish. Really a pretty plant. Some that we can grow obviously in the North Saskatoon. Some of the varieties from Canada related to the admiral anchor Shad bush service berries?. If the birds let you get the fruit they love the fruit to. You can see here the nice fruit. They make great pies and jellies. Their beautiful in the spring with white flowers and our small tree you're like shrub and beautiful and the fall with orange and red foliage. A lot of these ornamental. This is a nice ornamental ground cover low bush blueberry and this is one we talked about earlier. EC lot of those in Maine. Another low one is Lyndenberry. Kind of a tart fruit like a cranberry. Finally we do cover it's a country. Here's an example of the great for a middle shade trees more to the south as a little bit more in the north bay really to not fruit they need more heat and a longer season.

Judy.: You also mentioned there's a website?

Leonard.: There's a website for all the rest that did not give the book they had to be cut out. There are a lot more cultivars and its home from growing.com. This as it different from my others. Just specifically for more additional information for this book. A lot of links and a lot more information there.

Judy.: Congratulations on this new book, it's very exciting. That's our program for today I'm Judy Simpson we'll see you again next time on Across the Fence.

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