

Branford Park

Edible Walk 2

This flat pleasant walk in Branford Park has been planted in a variety of fruit trees as part of the Open Orchard initiative supported by Council. For over 25 years, mainly in areas like the Grampians, high health apples and nuts form a welcome part of the scenery. Enjoy a free healthy snack, while walking and relaxing in one of Nelson's favourite parks.

Two popular swimming areas are nearby, plus a playground, BBQ and toilets, making the area a favourite picnic and recreational area for many generations. Dennes swimming hole, was named after a tenant of Ralph Richardson who owned this land here from 1840.

Nelson City Council has a range of easily downloadable walk guides on www.nelson.govt.nz. See Branford Park *Edible Walk 1* for more fruit varieties on the hill side of the road.





Branford Park Edible Walk 2

This land was once part of extensive land holdings by the Richardson family who first started to acquire land in the Maitai Valley in 1840.

Sheep proved eventually to be the most financially rewarding produce of the Maitai Run, although cows provided a source of milk for the community. During the time Ralphine Richardson had land under cultivation to support the World War One effort to provide food, crops such as strawberries, plums, potatoes and raspberries were produced. The old family homestead, still privately owned, can be found a little further up river.

Stroll around to get yourself familiar with where trees and plantings are. Trees are shown in fruit varieties, and within those groups there will be variance in harvesting times affected by the weather as well as the soil and plant variety.

Nelson's community gardens are a great resource to inspire and teach you how to grow your own food. Visit the Waimarama Community Organic Gardens, the Victory Community Centre and the Apple Lane Orchard Reserve Community Garden.

Remember the food is there to share so please just take ripe fruit.

- AP Apple** (*January - April*). Wind fall fruit on the ground show the fruit is ripe and ready to pick. Two varieties: Apple Liberty MM106 and Apple Baujade MM106.
- PA Pear** (*January - April*). Pick at the texture best liked. Harder fruit will ripen off the tree. Three varieties: Conference (ripens March), William Bon Chretien (ripens January) and Taylors Gold (ripens April).
- PL Plum** (*December - January*). Harvest plums when fully ripe. They can be cooked or eaten raw. Two varieties: Santa Rosa (red flesh) and Burbank (yellow flesh).
- A Apricot** (*December - January*). Allow the fruit to soften a few days before picking. Harvest when the fruit easily comes away from the tree. Store carefully as fruit bruises easily. Two varieties: Royal Rosa and Tomcot.
- W Walnut** (*April - May*). Collect fallen nuts. The nuts are rich in oil and are widely eaten both fresh and in cookery.
- PE Peach** (*November - December*). Peaches have good potassium and vitamin C, and vitamin A. Sweet and delicious, pick carefully as fruit bruises easily. Two varieties: Dixired and April White.
- J Feijoa** (*March - June*). When fruit is ripe it drops to the ground with no skin colour change. Eat contents raw or cook, delicious in chutney.
- CB Cranberry** (*April - May*). Best juiced or used in cooking as can taste quite bitter.