

# SUNNYSIDE THYMES

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“Helping Others Grow”

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## A Gardener's Wish List

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This month we are finishing our series on award-winning plants selected from either the Theodore Klein Plant Awards or from the All-America Selections National and Regional Winners.

### **Pulmonaria 'Trevi Fountain'**

The silver spotted leaves of *Pulmonaria* 'Trevi Fountain' blue lungwort are the perfect foil against its intense spring blue flowers. Pulmonarias are lovely plants, but they often melt in our summer heat and humidity. 'Trevi Fountain' is an exception performing well throughout our growing season.

A 2020 Theodore Klein Plant Award winner, it is easy to grow, low maintenance, and a long-lived perennial. It can grow 9 to 18 inches tall and may eventually spread 2 to 3 feet wide. It grows best in partial shade and prefers moist, well-drained soils that are high in organic matter. They like an even supply of moisture during the growing season.

Lungworts don't have serious pest problems. Powdery mildew can be a problem in areas with poor air circulation. Slugs can damage the foliage.

The rather unusual common name refers to the belief in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries that the plant was an effective remedy for lung diseases. (*Pulmo-naria* is derived from the Latin *pulmo*, the lung.)

### **Common Persimmon, *Diospyros virginiana***

The Common (or American) Persimmon, also a 2020 Theodore Klein plant award winner, is a deciduous tree, 30 to 70 feet high with a 1-to-2-foot diameter trunk with alligator bark. It is native to central and eastern USA from Connecticut to Kansas south to Florida and Texas. It typically occurs in rocky or dry open woods, limestone glades, prairies, thickets, abandoned

fields and along roadsides.

It is slow-growing, and thicket forming and can take 10 to 15 years before the tree bears fruit. The trees are usually dioecious (separate male and female are needed for fruiting to occur). Flowering is in spring to early summer with fruit ripening after a fall frost. A string of cool days is usually needed for maturation. The 1-to-2-inch fruits are orange and very sweet when ripe and are a source of food for many types of birds and mammals.

Moist, well-drained sandy soils provide the best conditions for growth, but the tree will tolerate hot, dry, poor soils and clay, including urban conditions. Under poor conditions, it will often maintain a 15-foot shrub-like appearance, but in rich, moist soil it can grow to its maximum height. It blooms and fruits best in full sun to partial shade. A deep taproot makes it difficult to transplant.

Cultivars are available that may make a better tree for the home garden. It can also be grown as an ornamental fruit tree, or in naturalized areas for wildlife. There are no known insect or disease problems. Leaf spot may occur.

### Sources:

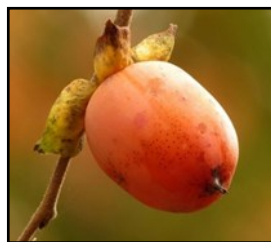
- North Carolina State Extension: [plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/diospyros-virginiana-c-100/](https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/diospyros-virginiana-c-100/)
- Missouri Botanical Gardens Plant Finder: *Pulmonaria* 'Trevi Fountain' - Plant Finder ([missouribotanicalgarden.org](https://missouribotanicalgarden.org))
- *Pulmonaria* 'Trevi Fountain' | Nursery Crop Extension Research ([uky.edu](https://uky.edu))



*Pulmonaria* "Trevi Fountain" -  
Photo: Missouri Botanical Gardens  
Plant Finder ↓



←*Pulmonaria* "Trevi Fountain."  
Photo: Jane Jones, SMG



↑ Ripened Persimmon  
Fruit. Photo: North

Common persimmon. Photo:  
North Carolina Extension →

