

Excerpt from **Grow ancient plants at home**  
**Joshua Siskin, Columnist**  
**Article Last Updated: 12/30/2005 01:38:24 PM PST**

You might want to emulate Alex Silber, whose devotion to the cultivation of exotic fruit trees in his Granada Hills back yard is clear for any visitor to see. Silber has about 100 different varieties of mostly tropical trees, including several kinds of guavas, starfruit, cherimoya and the unique Babaco papaya, hardy enough to be grown throughout the East and North Valley. You can reach Silber's Papaya Tree Nursery at (818) 363-3680.

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Excerpt from **So, no grass is growing under your feet?**  
**By Joshua Siskin, Columnist**  
**U-Entertainment Article Last Updated:12/01/2006 07:13:20 PM PST**

### **Another approach**

I have decided to plant a variety of fruit trees, interconnected by paths of decomposed granite. Once the trees are in place, I will plant annual flowers, vegetables and perennials along the paths.

There will also be two or three benches among the trees and pathways, so that there will be a place to sit, in sun or shade, during most of the hours of the day. If I wanted, I could also add a water feature or two to my lawnless landscape.

My inspiration for a Valley orchard comes from David Silber and his son, Alex, who are the fruit-tree mavens of Los Angeles. The Silbers have made both back and front yards of their Granada Hills home into impressive orchards, where they grow more than 100 varieties of tropical and deciduous fruit trees. For more information about their nursery, call (818) 363-3680. You can also visit their Web site at [www.papayatreenursery.com](http://www.papayatreenursery.com).