



FRUIT TREES

Recommended Varieties

Swansons selects fruit tree varieties which perform well in our marine climate, with most varieties producing nice yields and offering good disease resistance with minimum care.

This list is divided into 5 groups:

APPLES, FRUITING PEARS (EUROPEAN AND ASIAN), FRUITING PLUMS AND PRUNES (EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE), FRUITING CHERRIES and PEACHES.

For specific information on the varieties listed, such as tree size, disease resistance or culture, please refer to individual plant signs or consult one of our nursery professionals.

APPLES

BRAEBURN

A fairly recent introduction from New Zealand. This is a very popular, red-tinged yellow apple with firm, juicy flesh and a sweet, tangy flavor. Keeps very well with refrigeration and excellent for fresh eating (perfect in salads) and baking. Ripens in October. Pollinized by any other apple variety on this list, except Gravenstein.

CHEHALIS

Crisp, juicy, slightly tart. Medium-large, yellow fruit resembles Golden Delicious. Good for fresh eating and baking. Ready to pick in early to mid September. Does not store well. Good tree for Puget Sound climate. Pollinized by any other apple variety on this list, except Gravenstein.

GRAVENSTEIN

Crisp, juicy and tart. Large, yellow-green / red-striped apple. Good fresh or for cooking. Ready to pick in September. Does not store well. Vigorous grower, bears biennially. Pollinized by any other apple variety on this list.

LIBERTY

Crisp, juicy, sweet and sprightly. Medium-sized fruit is dark red over greenish-yellow. Good for fresh eating and cooking. Ready to pick mid-September to early October. Stores well. Highly productive, annual bearer. Pollinized by any other apple variety on this list, except Gravenstein.

MELROSE

Crisp, firm, sprightly, with a touch of sweetness. Medium-large fruit is greenish-yellow with coppery blush. Exceptionally good fresh; also good for cooking. Ready to pick in late October. Stores well. Pollinized by any other apple variety on this list, except Gravenstein.

SPARTAN

Crisp, juicy, mild, aromatic, pleasing flavor. Dark red, medium-sized fruit. Excellent for fresh eating. Ready to pick in mid October. Stores well. Trees begin to bear when young and continue to bear regularly. Pollinized by any other apple variety on this list, except Gravenstein.

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EUROPEAN AND ASIAN FRUITING PEARS

European pears are the classic “pear shape” and fully ripen only after harvest and storage, allowing fresh eating into the winter. Asian pears are typically smaller and round, sometimes referred to (inaccurately) as “pear-apples.” They are extremely disease-resistant and their blooms and foliage make them attractive as ornamental specimens. All Asian varieties are crisp, sweet and juicy and unlike most European pears, the fruit ripens on the tree. Listed European and Asian varieties can be used to pollinize each other.

European Pears

BARTLETT

The leading European pear variety for home and commercial use in Washington state. Very large, golden-yellow fruit has a red blush when ready to pick in early September. Tender, juicy, buttery and delicious. Good for fresh eating, canning and preserves. This summer type pear ripens quickly after picking. Pollinized by any other pear variety on this list except Red Bartlett.

ORCAS

A great European variety for fresh eating, canning or drying. The yellow fruit has a carmine blush. Ready for picking in early September. Stores well. Trees bear heavily and reliably. Pollinized by any other pear variety on this list.

RESCUE

Picture-perfect, large fruit is yellow with a bright orange-red blush. The flesh is sweet, smooth and juicy. A very productive tree with upright form. Fruit ripens in September and can be stored until December. Pollinized by any other pear variety on this list.

Asian Pears

CHOJURO

One of the best-performing Asian pears for Western Washington. Rounded fruit of medium size and russet coloring. Excellent, firm, aromatic flesh with a sweet flavor. Fruit is picked when it ripens in early September. Stores well into March in a cool, dry place. Pollinized by any other pear variety on this list.

NIJISEIKI (20th CENTURY)

One of the most popular Asian pear varieties in Japan. Medium-sized yellow fruit with white, sweet-tasting, mild and juicy flesh. Pick when ripe in early to mid September. Stores well. Pollinized by any other pear variety on this list.

SHINSEIKI

An Asian pear with round to oblong, medium to large, yellow fruit having white, crisp, sweet and juicy flesh. Fruit should be picked when ripe in late August. Stores well. Trees bear heavily and reliably. Pollinized by any other pear variety on this list.

FRUITING EUROPEAN AND JAPANESE PLUMS AND PRUNES

European plums are hardier than Japanese varieties, blooming and ripening later. Japanese plums are vigorous and attractive trees, and bloom earlier, increasing the risk of late frost damage and making them less reliable for consistent production. The fruit of Japanese varieties tends to be larger than European varieties. Prunes are European plums with very high sugar content, allowing them to be easily dried without fermenting. Even self-fertile varieties of plums will set a heavier crop if cross-pollinized.

European Plums

ITALIAN PRUNE

A European freestone prune with a medium-sized, oval fruit. Deep-purple skin and greenish-yellow, firm and sweet flesh. Great for fresh eating, cooking or drying. Ripens late August to September. Reliable, heavy producer. Self-fertile.

SENECA PRUNE

An Italian type European prune very well-suited to Western Washington. Large, freestone fruit resists cracking. Reddish-purple skin with yellowish flesh and an excellent flavor exceptional for fresh eating and preserves. Pollinized by Italian or Stanley.

STANLEY PRUNE

An Italian type European prune with large, deep-purple, freestone fruit having sweet, tender and juicy, greenish-yellow flesh. This is the most versatile variety around, with fruit good for fresh eating, cooking, preserves or drying. Tree is very hardy, vigorous and productive. Self-fertile, although more productive when pollinized by Stanley or Italian.

YELLOW EGG

A large, bright yellow European plum with yellow flesh. Soft and sweet for fresh eating or canning. Late August. Pollinized by Italian or Stanley.

Japanese Plums

BEAUTY

A Japanese red plum with amber flesh and good flavor. Ripens mid to late July. A consistent, heavy producer. Pollinized by Methley.

METHLEY

A hybrid Japanese plum with medium-sized, reddish-purple fruit. Red flesh is soft, juicy and exceptionally delicious. Fruit is best eaten fresh when it ripens in August as it does not store well. Self-fertile, although more productive when pollinized by Beauty.

SHIRO

A large, golden Japanese plum with yellow flesh. Heavy producer with excellent flavor. Self-fertile, although more productive when pollinized by Beauty or Methley.

FRUITING CHERRIES

LAPIN

Large, dark red to near-black fruit has a sweet, rich flavor. Ripens in late July. Fruit is crack-resistant in rain. Heavy-producing, self-fertile tree is a good pollinizer for other varieties.

MONTMORENCY

Classic pie cherry with tart, red fruit and red juice. Ripens early. Fruit is fairly crack-resistant. Heavy-producing tree is self-fertile (and an excellent pollinizer for others) but can also be pollinized by Stella.

RAINIER

This yellow-blushed-red fruit is a Washington state favorite. Firm, fine-textured yellow flesh with a distinct flavor. Resists cracking and holds well on tree after ripening. Heavy-producing crop can be thinned to produce larger fruit if desired. Pollinized by Lapin or Stella.

STELLA

Large, dark red, sweet cherry with a fine flavor. Ripens in July. Moderate crack-resistance. This is one of the best trees to use as a pollinizer for all other cherry varieties.

SWEETHEART

Large, bright red fruit with excellent flavor and good resistance to cracking. The tree is upright, vigorous and heavy bearing, usually beginning at a young age. This variety is self-fertile and ripens slightly later than other sweet cherries, late July to early August.

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PEACHES

FROST PEACH

The fruiting peach best adapted to the Puget Sound area. Freestone, medium to large fruit with sweet, juicy, delicious, pale-yellow flesh. Ripens in August. Fruit resistant to 'split pit'. Tree resistant to 'leaf curl', with increasing resistance as tree matures. This heavy-producing variety is self-fertile, requiring no pollinizer.