

FRUIT TREES

Cultural information for the fruit tree selections is provided by the growers of the selections offered.

Along with their traditional use for fruit production, many fruiting trees can be very ornamental in the landscape. A modest number of trees can produce both a variety of fresh fruit for consumption and provide attractive accents in even a relatively small area. We suggest you consider fruit trees in your landscaping plans.

Most fruiting trees require full sun and adequate moisture. Avoid sites at the bottom of slopes because these areas can be prone to frost pockets. All fruit trees need some specialized pruning for maintenance but the techniques are not difficult to learn. Pests and diseases also need to be monitored and controlled but should not deter homeowners from trying fruit trees. Both chemical and organic methods work and our staff is happy to help diagnose and recommend treatments. Good cultural practices, including thorough fall cleanup, will go a long way towards reducing both pests and disease. Hardiness varies within genus by species and variety. There are no techniques that can be used to increase hardiness. Both the severity and variability of Montana winters can cause damage in any given year. We recommend maintaining fruiting trees in the best possible health to reduce the odds of winterkill. Most fruit trees require cross-pollination for fruit production to occur. We have noted necessary requirements and recommended appropriate pollinators. Please read these sections carefully as successful fruit production will not occur or will be spotty without correct cross-pollination. We can provide additional information if required and help you select pollinators for established trees.

Apple

MALUS: (Apple) Generally not self fertile, two varieties are needed for cross-pollination. Cross-pollination is possible only when varieties bloom at approximately the same time, see the chart at the end for bloom. Length of the bloom is usually 7 to 15 days. In an orchard planting, all trees should be within 100' of the pollinator tree. Use one pollinator per 10 trees. Many of our selections are grafted on semi-dwarf rootstock resulting in about a 15' tree. These semi-dwarf varieties will fruit earlier than standard rootstock types, often bearing within 4-5 years compared to 7-10 for many standard types. Varieties marked as grafted on standard rootstock will grow to approximately 25'. We also offer some espaliered apple and pear trees. Espaliered trees have some very specific needs for maintenance and care. We offer help and instruction for these special trees.

All apple trees are \$ 31.99 Each

M. 'Freedom' – Large red apples that are good for eating and store well. Bred for very good resistance to scab, mildew, cedar apple rust and fireblight. **Zone 4.** Semi-Dwarf rootstock

M. 'Goodland' - Color is red over creamy green, the flesh is crisp and juicy. It is good for eating and keeping. **Zone 3.** Standard rootstock.

M. 'Honeycrisp'TM - Sweet, exceptionally crisp and juicy, this red fruit stores well, up to 5 months. **Zone 4.** Dwarf rootstock

M. 'Honeygold' – Similar to Golden Delicious but hardier. Crisp, juicy, sweet large yellow apple. **Zone 4.** Semi-Dwarf rootstock

M. 'Macintosh' – The best all around apple, good for eating, cooking, and storing. Bright red fruit with white inside. Very well known, it has commercial value. **Zone 4.** Semi-Dwarf rootstock

M. 'Norland' – Because it ripens very early, this variety is well suited for very cold areas plus it is very hardy. Good for eating and cooking, stores well if picked before fully ripe. Standard only. **Zone 2.** Standard Rootstock

M. 'Snow Sweet'- Deliciously sweet, slightly tart taste. Slow to oxidize when exposed to air. Above average resistance to scab and fire blight. **Zone 4**

M. 'Sweet Sixteen' – The flavor of this red apple is particularly sweet and is good for fresh eating. Fireblight resistant. **Zone 4.** Semi-Dwarf rootstock

M. 'Wealthy'- First commercial apple variety developed in Mn. Striped red fruit with a tart balanced flavor. Multi purpose apple but especially good for cooking. Often bears fruit the first year. Keeps well. Fruit tends to drop at maturity **Zone 3b** Standard Rootstock

M. 'Yellow Transparent' – Heavy producer, the greenish apples are best for pies. scab resistant. **Zone 4.** Standard rootstock.

Price \$ 31.99

Apple recommendations for pollination:

Early season bloomers: (in order of bloom) Yellow Transparent, Norland, Snow Sweet and Wealthy

Mid-Season bloomers: (in order of bloom) McIntosh, Goodland, Freedom, Honey Crisp, Honey Gold, and Sweet Sixteen

Apricot

PRUNUS: (Apricot) Both varieties we offer are grafted on dwarf rootstock, keeping their mature size under 15'. The varieties we offer pollinate each other well. **All apricots are \$34.99**

P. Pioneer Chinese Apricot- A late blooming apricot, ideal for higher elevations and climates prone to late spring frosts. Golden yellow fruits have a reddish blush and are sweet, firm and juicy. Self-fertile however yields improve with cross pollination. **Zone 4.**

P. Scout- Cultivars developed in Morden, Manitoba 1937 Fruit is bronze gold, blushed with red. Good for canning and jam, fair for eating. Blooms early May. Self-fertile produces more fruit with a pollinator. Height 10-15 ft. **Zone 3.**

Cherry

PRUNUS: (Cherry) These are rewarding to grow for both their sweet blossoms and delicious fruit. They vary widely for hardiness. You may need to protect your crop from birds because they can be greedy and beat you to it.

All cherry trees are \$ 37.99

P. 'Evans Bali' – Deep, dark red fruit 1" in diameter and excellent for baking and fresh eating. The fruit is much sweeter than other sour cherries. **Zone 3**

P. 'Bing' – A sweet black cherry with excellent flavor. It can be pollinated with *P. 'Montmorency'* or with *P. 'Stella'*. **Zone 5.**

P. 'Lapin' – After the big freeze of 1989-90, many Flathead cherry growers switched to this Canadian selection, reputed to be hardier and more resistant to splitting. The crop has been harvested for several years now and the verdict is that these compete favorably with the old variety, *P. 'Lambert'*. It is a self-fertile type, requiring no pollinator. **Zone 4.**

P. 'Montmorency' – A tart cherry for pies or preserves. These are small trees to start and at maturity, they will reach 15'. Self-fertile and highly productive. **Zone 4.**

P. 'Stella' – An old standby sweet cherry, it is self-fertile and has black skin and flesh. **Zone 4.**

Peach

PRUNUS: (Peach) Peaches are best suited to sites along Flathead Lake as they are only hardy to Zone 5 and can be marginal in any given winter.

All peaches are \$ 39.99

P. 'Bailey Hardy' - A very hardy peach that produces small, white-fleshed, freestone fruits. Very productive and tolerant to cold winter temperatures. Fruit will hang on the tree for extended periods without fruit drop. **Zone 5**

P. 'Reliance' – An excellent early peach and one of the hardiest. Bears heavily and must be thinned to produce bigger fruit. Yellow flesh, freestone, soft and juicy. Self-fertile. **Zone 5.**

P. 'Redhaven' – Red and golden yellow fruit. Flesh is firm, smooth texture and fine flavored. Good for freezing and canning. Fruit sets heavily and must be thinned to reach size. **Zone 5**

Pear

PYRUS: (Pear) Pears can live to be old trees and these are dwarf selections that will stay under 15'. They are upright growers. Occasionally may drop significant fruit prior to harvest. These varieties will pollinate each other and all need pollinators.

All pears are \$33.99

P. Early Gold Pear - Small high quality greenish fruit is good for fresh eating, jams and jellies. Fallen fruit can be messy, but self-pollinating and very resistant to fireblight. **Zone 3**

P. Parker Pear - Large, yellow bronze fruit. Fine grained, tender and juicy. Upright and vigorous grower. **Zone 4**

P. 'Golden Spice' - Fruit are medium yellow, lightly blushed with dull red and will ripen mid-season. Good for canning, spicing and fair for eating. **Zone 3**

P. 'Summercrisp' – Fruit harvested in mid-August will be crisp and still green with red blush. Fruit will be sweet and crisp and may be stored up to 2 months. **Zone 4**

Plum

PRUNUS: (Plum) Relatively easy to grow, fresh plums are a real treat. Freestone refers to the pit, meaning it comes out cleanly. Clingstone indicates a pit that is softer and does not come out as cleanly.

All plums are \$ 30.99

P. Alderman- Burgundy red. Excellent fresh or for preserves, soft and sweet. Bears fruit the second season after planting. Fruit is of large size. Height 10-15 feet. **Zone 4**

P. 'Mount Royal' – SELF fertile selection and it can also be used as a pollinator. This is a European Plum, small, egg shaped and purple to blue. Good for fresh eating, better for preserves and cooking. Freestone. Grafted on dwarf rootstock, stays under 12' high and wide. **Zone 4.**

P. 'Pipestone' – Very hardy red plum with a golden blush. Clingstone. Pollinate with '*Alderman*' or '*Toka*'. **Zone 3.**

P. 'Black Ice' – This plum is a cross between a cherry plum and a conventional Japanese dessert plum resulting in large fruit with superior winter hardiness and early ripening date. **Zone 4**

P. 'Blues Jam' - This plum is purplish blue with greenish yellow flesh and has a sweet flavor. Excellent for sauce and jams. **Zone 5**