

Choosing Fruits for Home Growing
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78-31
Rev. 1/82
2M

The purpose of this bulletin is to list some of the most desirable fruit varieties that can be grown in Connecticut, and to provide information on pollination requirements. Suggestions for dwarfing rootstock are also included for the tree fruits.

Other Extension bulletins should be consulted for information on spray programs for insect and disease control, fertilization, and other cultural practices.

Apples

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Harvest Season</u> (approx.)	<u>Storage Potential</u> at 31 ^o F	<u>Bloom Season</u>
Vista Bella	4th wk July	20 days	early
Jerseymac	2nd wk Aug	6 wks	midseason
Gravenstein	3rd wk Aug	4 wks	very early
Summerred	3rd wk Aug	Dec	early
Paulared	4th wk Aug	Oct	midseason
Burgundy	1st wk Sept	5 wks	early
Mollies Delicious	1st wk Sept	6 wks	midseason
Prima	1st wk Sept	Dec	midseason
Jonamac	2nd wk Sept	Dec	early
Gala	3rd wk Sept	Dec	midseason
Britemac	3rd wk Sept	Feb	late mid.
Priscilla	3rd wk Sept	Jan	midseason
McIntosh	3rd wk Sept	Feb	early
Spartan	4th wk Sept	March	midseason
Macoun	4th wk Sept	Jan	late mid.
Cortland	4th wk Sept	Feb	midseason
Franklin	4th wk Sept	Feb	midseason
Empire	1st wk Oct	March	early
Delicious	1st wk Oct	March	midseason
Jonagold	2nd wk Oct	March	late
Spigold	2nd wk Oct	March	late
Golden Delicious	3rd wk Oct	March	late mid.
Melrose	3rd wk Oct	April	late
Idared	4th wk Oct	May	early
Mutsu	4th wk Oct	March	midseason
Rome	4th wk Oct	April	late

Pollination: Almost all apple varieties require pollination from another variety to set fruit (cross pollination). Two varieties that bloom at the same time should be grown together, within 100 feet of each other. Considerably greater distances are satisfactory if weather conditions during bloom are favorable for bee flight. A few varieties will not serve as pollinators. These include: Gravenstein, Jonagold, Spigold, Stayman, Winesap, Rhode Island Greening, Roxbury Russet, Baldwin, and Mutsu. When these varieties are grown, two other pollinator varieties which bloom at the same time are needed. Midseason bloomers will often

overlap the early and late blooming varieties and serve as pollenizers for them. Varieties which may set a satisfactory crop without cross pollination include Golden Delicious and Rome. Melrose and Delicious will not pollinize each other, and Jonagold and Golden Delicious will not pollinize each other.

Rootstocks: Commonly used dwarfing rootstocks were developed in England, and are designated by letter-number combinations: M9, M26, M7, MM106, etc. When these are used instead of apple seedlings as rootstocks, the tree will begin bearing earlier and will be smaller at maturity. Fruit quality and size are not affected.

The M9 produces what is commonly called a "full dwarf" tree, 6-10 feet high when fullgrown. Trees on M9 may tip over if not supported by a pole or trellis. Support may also be desirable to prevent young fruiting limbs from breaking. M26 produces a tree slightly larger than M9, but usually also requires support in the early years. M7 and MM106 produce trees about 2/3 standard size and can usually be grown without support. Nurseries often refer to trees grown on these last two rootstocks as being "semi-dwarf".

Pears

	<u>Picking</u> <u>Time</u> (approx.)	
Tyson	Aug. 10-15	Resistant to fireblight
Clapp Favorite	Aug. 15-20	
Aurora	Sept. 1-5	
Bartlett	Sept. 5-10	
Flemish Beauty	Sept. 15-20	Susceptible to scab
Seckel	Sept. 15-20	Scab suscept.; Fireblight resist.
Gorham	Sept. 20-25	
Magness	Sept. 20-25	Fireblight resistant.
Devoe	Sept. 20-25	
Bosc	Sept. 25-30	
Anjou	Oct. 1-5	
Highland	Oct. 5-10	

Pollination: Pear varieties are not self fruitful. At least two varieties must be grown together. Seckel and Bartlett will not pollinate each other. Magness is pollen sterile. Kieffer may not be a reliable pollenizer. Otherwise, any two varieties are considered satisfactory for cross pollination.

Rootstocks: Both pear seedlings and quince clones are used as pear rootstocks. Quince induces early bearing and dwarfing but is not compatible with all pear varieties. To avoid incompatibility and possible tree loss, an interstem of Old Home pear or another compatible pear variety is grafted between the quince and top variety. Old home is also very resistant to fireblight disease, and therefore is desirable as a trunk and scaffold framework for blight susceptible varieties. Graft the desired varieties 10-20 inches out from the trunk on Old Home branches. Where space is limited, graft several varieties to one tree to provide cross pollination.

Peaches

	<u>Picking Season</u> (approx.)
Harbinger	30 days before Redhaven
Garnet Beauty	10 days before Redhaven
Harbelle	7 days before Redhaven
Redhaven	early August
Raritan Rose (white flesh)	with Redhaven
Harken	1 day after Redhaven
Ranger	6 days after Redhaven
Reliance	6 days after Redhaven
Glohaven	12 days after Redhaven
Biscoe	29 days after Redhaven
N.J. 244	32 days after Redhaven
Laterose (white flesh)	36 days after Redhaven

Nectarines are a group of fuzzless peach varieties that are very susceptible to brown rot disease. They have been less successful in Connecticut than peaches. Peach and nectarine trees have a short life expectancy because of their susceptibility to canker, X-disease and low temperature injury.

Pollination: All peaches listed above are self fruitful. J. H. Hale variety is not self fruitful and requires a second variety for pollination. Peaches and nectarines generally bloom 5-7 days earlier than apples.

Rootstocks: Some nurseries offer dwarfed peach trees but there have been no entirely satisfactory dwarfing rootstocks developed for peach trees yet. Peaches grown on non-dwarfing rootstocks can be kept low enough to pick them from the ground by attention to pruning and training.

Rootstocks that are currently being planted in commercial orchards in Connecticut include seedlings of Halford, Lovel, and Siberian C peach. Peaches listed as "Dwarf" in nursery catalogs are usually grafted on Prunus besseyi or P. tomentosa rootstocks. Performance of these trees has been inconsistent: sometimes good, sometimes not.

Plums

<u>European Varieties:</u>	<u>picking season</u>	<u>self fruitful</u>
California Blue	mid August	yes
De Montfort	mid August	no
Golden Transparent Gage	early Sept.	no
Stanley	2nd week Sept.	yes
French Damson	2nd week Sept.	yes
Green Gage (Reine Claude)	mid Sept.	yes
<u>Japanese Varieties:</u>		
Methley	late July	yes
Shiro	early Aug.	no
Santa Rosa	mid Aug.	yes

Pollination: Some European varieties are classified as self fruitful because a high percentage of fruits will set without cross pollination. These include: Agen, Bavay, California Blue, Coates 1418, Czar, Drap D Or, Early Mirabelle, French Damson, Giant, Goliath, King of the Damsons, Monarch, Ontario, Ouillins, Pershore, Purple Pershore, Sannoir, Shropshire Damson, Stanley, Sugar, Victoria, and Yellow Egg.

Some varieties may be self fruitful under some conditions and self unfruitful under others. These include Italian Prune, German Prune, Agen, and Reine Claude.

To be sure that pollination is not lacking, it is suggested that at least two European varieties be grown together. Reine Claude may bloom too early to pollinate Italian Prune, a late bloomer.

Japanese varieties as a group bloom before most European varieties. Therefore, they are not satisfactory pollenizers for the European types. Reine Claude, because of its earliness, is an exception. The Japanese varieties usually bloom several days before peaches.

Methley and Santa Rosa are usually classified as self fruitful Japanese types, but fruit set may not be adequate without cross pollination. Other Japanese varieties require cross pollination. The following varieties produce poor pollen and cannot be depended on as pollenizers: Burmosa, Mariposa, Eldorado, Formosa, Gaviota, Red Beaut, Kelsey, and Shiro. Two other varieties should be grown with these.

Rootstocks: Myrobolan plum seedlings used as rootstocks produce trees with mature spread around 10-18 feet. The clonal Myrobolan B has given better performance and produces trees of similar size. Plum trees can be dwarfed by grafting them to Western Sand Cherry (Prunus besseyi) or Nanking Cherry (Prunus tomentosa).

Seedlings of these two cherry stocks have produced trees with variable degrees of dwarfing, in the neighborhood of $1/2 - 2/3$ standard size. They are reported to be poorly anchored, needing support. The cherry stocks are not recommended for Damson plums.

Cherries

Cherries are a very difficult crop to raise particularly in the Northeast. They bloom early, subjecting the crop to frost kill; many varieties split if rain occurs immediately before harvest time; numerous disease and insect pests are difficult to control, and birds are likely to remove the crop before it matures.

The varieties listed below are much less subject to rain splitting than the popular Bing and Lambert varieties grown on the West Coast.

Sweet
(In order of ripening, late June to mid July)

Viva
Sam

Sour
(ripe mid July)

Montmorency
Northstar

Sweet

Venus
Rainier
Ulster
Van
Windsor
Hedelfingen
Hudson

Sour

Meteor
English Morello

Pollination: Sour cherries are self fruitful, but sweet cherries need cross pollination. Sour cherries bloom too late to pollinize sweet varieties. There are several groups of cross incompatible sweet varieties. Those within the same group will not pollinize each other. Varieties in different groups will pollinize each other. Sweet cherries bloom 1-2 days earlier than Japanese plums. Sour cherries are several days later.

Cross Incompatible Group

Varieties

I	Black Tartarian, Early Rivers, Bedford Prolific
II	Windsor, Van, Venus, Merton Biggarreau
III	Napolean, Emperor Francis, Bing, Lambert
IV	Viva, Vogue, Victor, Velvet, Sue, Amber
VI	Gold
VII	Hedelfingen
VIII	Schmidt, Peggy Rivers
IX	Chinook, Hudson, Rainier, Grant, Ursula
XIII	Ulster, Vic
Unknown	Vista, Seneca, Vega
Unknown	Sam
Unknown	Corum

Rootstocks: Mazzard cherry seedlings are considered the most satisfactory rootstocks for sweet cherries in this area. For sour cherries, either Mazzard or mahaleb seedlings can be used. Neither of these rootstocks will dwarf the trees.

Seedlings or clonal rootstocks of Mongolian cherry (Prunus fruticosa) have been used successfully in tests to dwarf sweet and sour cherries, but these rootstocks have not yet become available in the nursery trade.

Apricot

Apricots have not been adequately tested in Connecticut to permit useful recommendations on varieties. They are very early in blooming, making them susceptible to crop loss by frost.

Grapes

Dessert

Aurora
Himrod (seedless)

Wine

Aurore
Foch (Kuhlman 188-2)

Dessert

Schuyler
Canadice (seedless)
Ontario
Suffolk Red (seedless)
Alwood
Buffalo
New York Muscat
Niagra
Monticello
Delaware
Concord
Alden
Urbana

Wine

Baco Noir (Baco #1)
DeChaunac (S. 9549)
Buffalo
New York Muscat
Niagra
Cayuga White
Delaware
Concord
Seyval (S.V. 5276)
White Reisling
Pinot Chardonay
Catawba

Many of the varieties listed here have not been evaluated in Connecticut, but do well in similar climates. They are considered at least medium hardy to winter cold and of good to excellent dessert or wine quality. Varieties are listed in approximate order of ripening. White Reisling and Pinot Chardonay are Vinifera types and are less winter hardy than the others.

Pollination: All the named varieties and numbered selections listed are considered self fruitful. Cross pollination is not needed. Some of the native American grapes growing wild in Connecticut appear to be incapable of setting fruit without insect or hand pollination because of flower structural abnormalities, or sterility.

Rootstocks: Grapes are propagated from hardwood cuttings rather than seed, so grafting is not necessary to obtain the desired variety. Vinifera type grapes are subject to root killing by grape phylloxera, a soil pest, and they cannot survive unless grafted onto a phylloxera resistant rootstock. Nematode resistant rootstocks are desirable where grapes are to be planted in soil where grapes had been grown within the previous 3-4 years. Grape nurseries have several nematode and phylloxera resistant rootstock varieties available.

Blueberry

Earliblue	Collins	Blueray	Darrow	Lateblue
Northland	Meador	Bluecrop	Herbert	Elliot
Bluetta	Patriot	Berkeley	Coville	

Cross pollination is not essential, but results in earlier ripening and larger berries. Plants are propagated by cuttings. No grafting is needed. Varieties are listed in order of ripening, July through September.

Raspberry

<u>Red</u>	<u>Black</u>	<u>Purple</u>	<u>Yellow</u>
Heritage	Allen	Sodus	Amber
Hilton	Bristol	Marion	Fallgold
Taylor	Dundee	Clyde	
Milton	Huron	Amethyst	
	Jewel	Brandywine	

Cross pollination is not needed. Single variety plantings are productive. Heritage and Fallgold are everbearing types, cropping in July and again in September-October.

Blackberry

Darrow is the only variety recommended for general planting in Connecticut. Boysen, and thornless varieties may require covering in winter to prevent cold damage. Dirksen and Black Satin are probably the best available thornless blackberries.

Blackberry varieties are self fruitful. Fruit matures mid July thru August.

Currents and Gooseberries

Poorman	red gooseberry
Fredonia	red gooseberry
Red Lake	red currant
Minnesota 71	red currant
Wilder	red currant
White Imperial	white currant

Gooseberries and currants are a suitable choice for a fruit to be grown in partial shade. All varieties are self fruitful. Fruit ripens in July. Black currants are illegal in Connecticut because of white pine blister rust legislation. All currants and gooseberries should be kept as far as possible away from 5 needle pine trees. White pine blister rust disease spreads from 5 needle pine to currant and gooseberry plants, and vice versa.

Elderberry

Nova
York

Cross pollination is essential for good yields. Plant both varieties within 40-50 feet of each other for wind pollination.

Strawberries

Darrow**	Surecrop	Scott *
Fairfax *	Catskill	Sparkle *
Holiday *	Midway *	Geneva
Redchief *	Guardian	Ozark Beauty

Starred varieties are most desirable for freezing. All are good for fresh eating. Darrow, Guardian, Surecrop, Redchief, and Scott are resistant to red stele soil disease. Guardian and Surecrop are resistant also to verticillium wilt disease.