



Photo credits: University of Minnesota; Bachmans; Bailey Nurseries

Pair of Pears: ‘Parker’ and ‘Summercrisp’

Pyrus

Two trees, each in #5 container

\$40 per pair

Mature height x width: up to 20’

Light: full sun

Moisture: average

Soil: adaptable

Tolerates... cold climates; air pollution

Does not tolerate... sustained flooding

Ash replacement? ✘

Buckthorn replacement? ✘

Shoreline buffer zone? ✘

Seasonal interest: showy, pale white flowers; edible fruit; leaves turn brown in the fall.

Resilience to climate change: moderate

Pollinator and wildlife value: moderate

Other notes:

Two pear varieties must be planted near each other for cross-pollination, so this duo contains one each of the ‘Parker’ and ‘Summercrisp’ varieties. Both are fast-growing but may live for decades – though they may take a few years to flower. Insect pollinators visit the blossoms, and the fruit appeals to wildlife. It’s best to pick the fruit while still firm and store indoors.

- If planted in alkaline soil, watch for yellowing of the leaves that indicates chlorosis (iron deficiency).
- No need to use pesticides on these trees! Pears are not susceptible to many problematic diseases or pests.
- Prune annually, and add compost to supplement soil nutrients.
- Use wire caging to protect the young tree from browsing animals.
- ‘Parker’ **will not** hold up in baking and canning – but it is excellent eaten fresh!
- ‘Summercrisp’ is an excellent variety for baking and canning! Its eating quality is similar to that of Asian pears.