

Types of Fruit Trees (cont):

Peaches

Peach trees are early bloomers and are all self-fertile. Most ripen in late July-August.

Common Varieties: Zone

Contender	4
Reliance	5
Redhaven	5
Elberta	5

Pears

Require the most pollination of all of the fruits, so bees are very important along with planting multiple pear trees for the best harvest. Fruit ripens in late-summer to early Fall.

Common Varieties:

Bartlett (self-fertile)	Zone: 5
D'Anjou	Zone: 5 (pair with Bartlett)
Parker	Zone: 3 (pair with Summercrisp)
Summercrisp	Zone: 3 (pair with Parker)

Plums

Plums are another reliable fruit tree in our area. Most European type plums will set fruit with their own pollen but will produce better crops with pollenizers nearby. While some Japanese types are self-fertile, most will require a pollenizer. According to the CSU Extension service, you should not use European varieties to pollinize Japanese types because their bloom times are different. Look to European types to pollinize each other. Ditto for Japanese types. Fruit ripens in late August-September.

Common Varieties: Bloom Time Zone

European types (most self-fertile*):

Italian Prune/Plum*	Late April	4
Mount Royal*	Late April	3
Stanley*	Late April	5

Japanese Types (some are self-fertile*):

Black Ice (hybrid)	Late April	3
Santa Rosa*	Late April	4
Superior (hybrid)	Late April	4
Toka (hybrid)*	Late April	3

(Toka is one of the BEST pollinators for other trees... use for Black Ice & Superior)



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Growing Fruit Trees

Considerations and pollination requirements



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Care & Considerations

General Care:



Fruit trees not only provide a beautiful display during Spring, they have the added bonus of offering fruit later in the season. However, they do require a bit more care than your average

ornamental tree. All fruit trees will benefit from a full sun location and well drained soil. Make sure you amend your soil at planting time and top dress with organic matter each year (compost, aged manure). Fertilize your tree each spring. Pruning and thinning of fruit will be necessary tasks to maintain your tree.

Colorado State University Extension has great research-based information for fruit trees that addresses pruning, fertilizing and pests. Go to www.ext.colostate.edu and type in 'fruit trees.'

Pests and Wildlife:

Pests and wildlife may like your fruit as much as you do! A good organic practice is to spray a dormant oil in early spring before your tree is actively growing. It smothers overwintered eggs on your tree. This practice can go a long way to preventing infestations. We've also had feedback that diatomaceous earth spread at the base of your tree has had good results in controlling crawling pests that go from the ground up. You must re-apply after rain.

Depending on the type of fruit tree you grow, you may need to spray for pests during the season as well. This is often done at fruit set. If worms become a problem, organic sprays that contain bacillus thurengiensis (Bt) are useful. We've also heard that planting onions or garlic beneath your tree helps repel moths that lay eggs for future worms.

Birds and squirrels may also like to snack on your fruit. If so, use fruit tree netting to help put a barrier between wildlife and your crop.

Colorado's Spring Freezes:

Late freezes during a typical Colorado spring are common. While we strive to offer you fruit tree varieties that do well in this area, know that peaches, nectarines, and pears are early bloomers and may get nipped in the bud by these late freezes. This means that some years you will have a bumper crop—and other years frost may claim those early blossoms.

As you shop for fruit trees, **take into account the hardiness zone in your location.** Those in higher elevations (Monument, Black Forest, Falcon) should plant more cold hardy zone 3 or 4 fruit trees. Those in more protected locations in town might also be able to grow zone 5 trees.

Pollination:

Fruit trees are either self-fertile, meaning no pollinator is required (so you can plant one tree), OR they will require a pollinator. This means that you must plant at least two different varieties that bloom at approximately the same time so that cross-pollination will occur. Trees for pollinators should be placed within 100 feet of each other. Also, the more bees you can attract to your yard, the better your harvest!

Types of Fruit Trees: for a list of our current season varieties visit phelanguardens.com

Apples

Most apple trees are not self-fertile, which means you should **plant two different varieties** for your apple trees to be productive. Self-fruitful varieties do exist. But, they will bear more fruit when planted with another variety. Apples can also be pollinated by a crabapple. With a few exceptions, the **majority** of crabapples will pollinate early to midseason bloomers, not late bloomers. Pair up varieties that fall within or 'bracket' your desired tree's bloom time. For example: Midseason bloomers can be planted with early, midseason or late bloomers. Late season bloomers should be planted with Midseason or other late season bloomers. Fruit ripens in Fall.

Common Varieties:	Bloom Time	Zone
State Fair	Early	3
Cortland	Mid-season	4
Fuji	Mid-season	5
Gala	Mid-season	5
Haralson	Mid-season	3
Honeycrisp	Mid-season	4
McIntosh	Mid-season	4
Sweet Sixteen	Mid-season	4
Winecrisp	Mid-season	4
Golden Delicious	Late-season	5
Granny Smith (self-fertile)	Late-season	5
Red Delicious	Late-season	5

Cherries

Cherries are some of the easiest fruit trees to grow in Colorado. They are hardy, naturally disease & insect resistant, and offer beautiful bark. Fruit ripens in summer.

Common Varieties:	Bloom Time	Zone
Sour Cherries (self-fertile)		
Evans Bali (sweetest sour)	May	3
Meteor	May	4
Montmorency	May	5
North Star	May	4
Sweet Cherry Pie	May	4
Sweet Cherries (most require pollenizer)		
Bing	May	5
Black Tartarian	May	5
Stella (self-fertile)	May	5