



Gilby's Fruit Tree Selection Guide for Pears, Apricots & Cherries

Pears - Genus: Pyrus										
Variety	Root Stock	Cold Hardiness Zone Range	Pollinator	Harvest	Fruit	Use	Height	Spread	Exposure	More Info
Ure	Pyrus ussuriensis 20-30' fire blight resistant zone 3	Zone 3-7	Use Early Gold	Approx. ripening date is Aug. 15	Fruit is green-yellow very juicy and approx. 2" in diameter	Good for eating and canning	15-20'	12-16'	Full Sun	Has sturdy branching. Developed in 1978 at Morden Research Station. Use 'Early Gold' as pollinator.
Early Gold	Pyrus ussuriensis 20-30' fire blight resistant zone 3	Zone 3-7	Use Ure	Early August	Light green to gold in color and have a crisp, sweet, white flesh	Great for fresh eating or canning	25-35'	18-24'	Full Sun	An improved seedling of 'Ure' pear selected for its vigor, chlorosis resistance & iron-clad cold hardiness. Abundant white flowers produce yellow fruit on average 10 days earlier than 'Ure'. The foliage is an attractive, glossy green. Use 'Ure' for pollination. Selected by Dr. Wilbert Ronald at Jeffries Nurseries Ltd. in Canada.
Golden Spice	Pyrus ussuriensis 20-30' fire blight resistant zone 3	Zone 3-7	Use Summercrisp or Parker	Mid-August	The 1.75" fruit are a medium yellow, blushed with dull red	Good for canning & spicing, fair for eating	15-20'	8-12'	Full Sun	A very hardy pear.
Summercrisp	Old home x farminagle 333 Semi Dwarf 15' fire blight resistant zone 4	Zone 3-8	Use Parker or Golden Spice	Harvest in mid-Aug when crisp & still green with a red blush	2.5-3" in diameter and 3-3.5" long. Fruit is pyriform in shape.	Great for fresh eating and canning	12-15'	8-12'	Full Sun	MNRC - Recognized for many years as the hardiest pear from the U of M, released in 1985. Free of fire blight. An annual bearer. Blooms early in May. Fruit harvested at that time is sweet and crisp, and may be stored up to 2 months. Use either 'Parker' or 'Patten' as pollinator.
Parker	Old home x farminagle 333 Semi Dwarf 15' fire blight resistant zone 4	Zone 3-8	Use Summercrisp	Mid to late August	Large, yellow bronze fruit. Fine grained, tender and juicy.	Great for fresh eating and canning	12-15'	8-12'	Full Sun	1934 U of M introduction. Open-pollinated seedling of a Manchurian pear. Upright & vigorous grower. Pollinator for 'Luscious'. Fruit must be picked before it ripens. Tree susceptible to fire blight.
Apricots - Genus: Prunus										
Apricot Bookcot	Prunus Mandschurica, Standard Rootstock 10-15' Zone 3	Zone 3-8	Self Fruitful however yields improve with cross pollination	Early August	1.25" dia., bright yellowish orange w/ red blush, fruit is juicy w/good flavor	Fresh eating or canning	10-15'	8-12'	Full Sun	Manchurian apricot (seedling) 1980. For semi-freestone fruit, ripens in early August.
Debbies Gold	Prunus Mandschurica, Standard Rootstock 10-15' Zone 3	Zone 3-8	Self Fruitful however yields improve with cross pollination	Late July	Yellowish orange fruit, 1.5" dia.	Firm texture & a less sweet flavor making it better for canning but also good for fresh eating	10-15'	8-12'	Full Sun	Freestone fruit ripens in late July. Self-fruitful, however, yields improve with cross pollination.
Scout	Prunus Mandschurica, Standard Rootstock 10-15' Zone 3	Zone 3-8	Self Fruitful	Early August	Fruit is bronze gold, blushed with red	Good for canning and jam, fair for eating	10-15'	12-18'	Full Sun	Cultivar developed in Morden, Manitoba 1937
Pioneer Chinese	Prunus Mandschurica, Standard Rootstock 10-15' Zone 3	Zone 4-8	Self Fruitful, late blooming, ideal for higher elevations & climates prone to late spring frosts		Golden-yellow fruits have reddish blush & are sweet and juicy.		10-15'	12-20'	Full Sun	Tree bears young and heavily. Called a 'sweet pit apricot' as its pit is edible and tastes of almond. Self-fruitful, however yields improve with cross-pollination.
Moongold	Prunus Mandschurica, Standard Rootstock Zone 3	Zone 4-8	Blooms 3 weeks of April. 'Sungold' is is recommended pollinator	Late July	1.75" freestone. Light orange colored fruit w/ slight red blush. Sweet flavor, slightly acidic	Great for eating, in sauces or jam	10-15'	12-18'	Full Sun	Yellow fall color. A moderate grower with a rounded form. Tolerant of urban pollution and a range of soil pH and types. Released by the U of M.
Cherries - Genus: Prunus cerasus										
Evans Bali		Zone 3-8	Self Fertile		Deep, dark red fruit 1" in diameter	Excellent for baking and fresh eating	20'	12'	Full Sun	Fruit is much sweeter than other sour cherries. Extremely hardy buds.
Sweet Cherry Pie		Zone 4-7	Self Fertile		New sour pie cherry has sweetest tasting cherries we've sampled	Not for fresh eating. Fantastaic for jams jellies & pies	15'	12'	Full Sun	From Wisc. orchardist Bill Eubank. Its compact size is great tree for the home gardener or small orchard. Dark green foliage.
Naking Cherry		Zone 3-7		End of July Early Aug	Fragrant white spring flowers, edible scarlet fruit. Good for mass planting & borders	Tart tangy fruit can be eaten fresh or used in pies, jams, jellies	6-10'	15'	Full Sun	Vigorous, adaptable shrub particularly suited to the cold winters & hot summers of central and northern plains of US and Canada. The dense branching pattern is well-suited for use as a windbreak filler, hedge, or wildlife habitat.

Pear Facts

Pears are related to apples, but can be easier to grow than apples. Two varieties are generally needed for successful pollination and fruit set. They can be grown organically in Minnesota. Pear trees require full sun to produce the most fruit. Prune annually to keep the tree healthy, productive and looking its best. It can take 3 to 10 years for trees to begin flowering and producing fruit. Mature pear trees are large and produce a lot of fruit in a short window of time. Fruit should be picked at a mature stage and then allowed to ripen indoors.

Ripening Apricots

Ripen apricots in a paper bag at room temperature for 2 to 3 days. Unripe apricots can be stored at room temperature up to 5 days. Refrigerate ripe apricots in a sealed container up to one week. (Be sure that they are ripened first, as they will not ripen in the refrigerator.)

Pick & Store Cherries

When is the right time to pick cherries? The sugar content rises significantly in the last few days of ripening, so wait to harvest the fruit until it is completely red. When the fruit is ready, it will be firm and fully colored. Sour cherries will come off the stem when they are ripe enough to be harvested, while sweet cherries should be tasted for maturity. Store sour cherries unwashed in a plastic bag in the refrigerator for 2-3 days or rinse, remove seeds then freeze for later use.