



Gilby’s Fruit Tree Selection Guide for Plums and Peaches

Genus Prunus	Root Stock	Cold Hardiness Zone Range	Cold Hardiness Zone 3	Cold Hardiness Zone 4	Pollen Compatibility	Harvest	Storage	Fruit	Use	Height	Spread	Exposure	More Info
Pembina	Prunus cerasifera (myrobalan plum) standard rootstock 10-15' zone 4	3-8	Very Good	Good	Toka Late Season Bloomer	Mid to Late August	3-5 days	Yellow Flesh, Sweet & Juicy Large size pointed fruit	Good dessert	10-15'	12'	Full Sun	Red (P.salicina x P. nigra) 1933 Brookings, SD Yellow flesh, sweet & juicy. Large size, pointed fruit American Hybrids
Pipestone	Prunus cerasifera (myrobalan plum) standard rootstock 10-15' zone 4	3-8	Very Good	Good	Toka Late Season Bloomer	Mid to Late August	3-5 days	Attractive red plum w/golden blush Sweet, juicy yellow flesh with excellent quality	Good for fresh use, jam or jelly	10-15'	8-12'	Full Sun	Red - Burbank (P. salicina x 'Wolf') released by U of MN 1942 Immense-size red fruit, very hardy, American Hybrids
Waneta	Prunus cerasifera (myrobalan plum) standard rootstock 10-15' zone 4	3-8	Very Good	Good	Toka Early Season Bloomer	Early August	3-5 days	Fruit is large 1 3/4" red, sweet, juicy	One of the best market plums	10-15'	8-12'	Full Sun	Red - South Dakota Experiment Station introduction, 1913 Produces well the first season after planting. One of the best market plums and good quality. American Hybrids
Cherry Plum Compass	Prunus Americana	3-8	Good	Very Good	Toka Late Blooming		3-5 days	Red	Excellent for jams, jellies canning & sauces	5-8'	5-8'	Full Sun	Early bearing cross that yields fruit the second year after planting. Good pollinator for other varieties
Toka	Prunus cerasifera (myrobalan plum) standard rootstock 10-15' zone 4	3-8 most recently changed to 4	Good	Fair	All other Hybrid plums Mid Season Bloomer will cover Early & Late Season	Mid to Late August	3-5 days	A medium-sized richly flavored variety with beautiful apricot color	Great for fresh eating, canning and jelly	15-20'	12-16'	Full Sun	Red - South Dakota Experiment Station introduction, 1911 One of the best pollinators. Has done very well at Gilby's 3b. Also known as "Bubble Gum Plum"
Superior	Prunus Americana or Wild Plum 10-15' zone 3	4-8	Good	Poor	Alderman, Toka not LaCrescent	Late August	3-5 days	One of the best plums on the market. Large fruit w/dark, red skin. Flesh is yellow	Good for fresh eating, jam and jelly	15-20'	15-20'	Full Sun	Red - 'Burbank' x 'Kaga' (Psimonii) 1913. Released by U of M Heavy bearing. Often sets fruit the first year. Use 'Toka' for pollination.
Plum-Blackice™ aka 'Lydecker'	Prunus Americana or Wild Plum 10-15' zone 3	4-8	Very Good	Good	Waneta, LaCrescent or American Plum	2-4 weeks earlier then conventional cultivars.	3-5 days	Large fruit with superior winter hardiness. Fruit size & yield is compared to popular con- ventional cultivars	Great for fresh eating, canning and jelly	8-12'	8-10'	Full Sun	Blackice™ is a cross between a cherry plum & a conventional Japanese dessert plum. However, has been shown to be hardy & product fruit in zone 3b. Naturally compact growth habit makes it easy to manage. Use 'Waneta', 'LaCrescent' or 'American Plum' for pollination.
Mount Royal	Saint Julian which is semi-dwarf rootstock 8-12' zone 4	4-8	Very Good	Good	Self Compatible	Mid to Late August	3-5 days	Blue - European Plum. Tender, juicy flesh	Good eaten off tree. Excel. for desserts, jams & preserves.	8-12'	6-10'	Full Sun	Blue - European Plum. Tender juicy flesh. Considered the best blue cultivar in Wisconsin and Minnesota.
Alderman	Prunus Americana or Wild Plum 10-15' zone 3	4-8	Good	Fair	Superior, Toka	Mid August	3-5 days	Burgandy red soft and sweet. Fruit is of large size.	Excellent fresh or for preserves	10-15'	12'	Full Sun	Burgundy red - introduced in 1986 by U of M. Bears fruit the second season after planting & named after Professor W.H. Alderman. Very attractive & valued as an ornamental. "Superior", Toka' or 'Compass' make good pollinators. MNRC.
La Crescent	Prunus Americana	4-8	Very Good	Good	Toka	Early August	3-5 days	High quality yellow plum. Fruit is small to medium. Sweet & juicy.	Excellent for fresh eating, and jams.	10-15'	8-102'	Full Sun	Yellow - Cross of 'Shiro' (P. americana x P. salicina) x Howard Yellow (P. americana) 1919. Vigorous grower.
PEACH													
Contender	Prunus Americana or Wild Plum 10-15' zone 3	4-8			Self-pollinating	Mid to late August		A freestone peach with bright yellow flesh. Sweet extra juicy fruit.	Great for fresh eating, canning, baking, & freezing.	12-15'	15-18'	Full Sun	Matches 'Reliance' in cold- hardiness and tolerance of spring frosts. 'Contender' ripens mid-to-late August.

Ripening Plums

Store plums at room temperature to ripen, check frequently because they are extremely perishable. A ripe fruit will yield when pressed gently. To speed up the ripening process, place plums in a paper bag and store at room temperature, away from direct sunlight. Storing ripe plums in a plastic bag in the crisper drawer will prolong their eating life — they should keep for 3 to 5 days.



Stone Fruit Preservation

Stone fruit takes well to freezing. First, peel the fruit: drop into boiling water for 30 seconds, plunge into cool water, then remove the skins. Slice open and remove the pits, which can impart bitterness to the fruit during freezing. Place in an air-tight container and they will last for up to a year. Rolling stone fruit in sugar before freezing helps to preserve the shape.