Are you interested in growing fruit trees in your landscape? There are several kinds of fruit trees that can be grown successfully in Central Oregon—the challenge lies in selecting varieties that are most likely to bear fruit in this region.

A typical growing season in Central Oregon ranges from 70 to 100 days, depending on where you live (see Central Oregon Climate and How it Relates to Gardening, page 4 in “For more information.”) Frost can occur at any time of the year, including when fruit trees are flowering or setting fruit—with possible damage to fruit. Although a tree may grow well, fruit production may vary each growing season. At lower elevations, the milder climate generally increases the chance of producing a successful fruit crop.

Fruit tree varieties

The apple tree is the most reliable fruiting tree in Central Oregon, followed by hardy Asian pear, European pear, plum, and sour cherry. You can also try peach, apricot, sweet cherry, hardy kiwi, and some kinds of nuts, but these trees may not bear consistently.

Tips for successful fruit production

The following may increase your chance of fruit production.

- Select cold-hardy, short-season varieties.
- Choose a site with full sun and well-drained soil, as most fruit trees prefer this type of environment. Western or southern exposures may cause trees to bloom earlier, increasing the chance for frost damage.
- Select high spots with good air flow to prevent frost damage.
- Consider pollination requirements of plants before purchasing.
- To prevent killing bees or other pollinators, do not spray insecticides during bloom.
- Select dwarfing rootstock and semidwarf trees because they produce apples sooner than their standard counterpart. They also take up less space in the landscape and are easier to maintain due to their smaller size.
- Protect plants from the elements in mid- to late-spring and early summer; use frost cloth to protect blossoms and young fruit after blossom drop.
- Manage your fruit trees to minimize insect and disease problems. This will help maintain plant health and is critical to prevent the spread of diseases to commercial fruit growers in your area.

Pome fruits

Apples

Semidwarf and dwarf apple tree varieties produce fruit in 2 to 3 years. Semidwarf varieties usually are 12 to 15 feet tall. Cross-pollination is recommended for all apple varieties to produce fruit. Crabapples planted within a quarter mile of your apple tree may serve as a pollinizer if bloom times align.
Table 1. Apple varieties for Central Oregon

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Harvest time</th>
<th>Pollinizer</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Common uses</th>
<th>Size</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gala</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Cortland, Honeycrisp, Liberty</td>
<td>Red-yellow; good flavor, sweet; heat-tolerant</td>
<td>Eating</td>
<td>Semidwarf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haralred</td>
<td>Late fall</td>
<td>Yellow Delicious</td>
<td>Red; firm, juicy, tart</td>
<td>All-purpose</td>
<td>Semidwarf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honeycrisp</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Red Baron, McIntosh</td>
<td>Pale red; sweet, very crisp, juicy</td>
<td>Eating, cooking</td>
<td>Dwarf (6–8 ft tall and wide)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liberty</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Freedom, Golden Delicious, McIntosh</td>
<td>Red; great flavor, crunchy, mildly tart; resistant to rust, scab, and fireblight</td>
<td>Eating, juice, sauce</td>
<td>Semidwarf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodi</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>Yellow transparent, Crabapple varieties</td>
<td>Yellow; tart, juicy; very early</td>
<td>Pie, sauces</td>
<td>Semidwarf</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McIntosh, Red</td>
<td>Late fall</td>
<td>Cortland, Yellow Delicious, Jonathan, Red Baron</td>
<td>Bright red, white flesh; tart; heavy bearer</td>
<td>Eating, cooking, cider</td>
<td>Semidwarf</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Asian pear varieties for Central Oregon.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Harvest time</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atago</td>
<td>Late fall</td>
<td>Sweet, juicy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kosui</td>
<td>Late summer</td>
<td>Best tasting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seuri</td>
<td>Late fall</td>
<td>Brown skin; crisp, sweet, aromatic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shinseiki</td>
<td>Late summer</td>
<td>Yellow skin, white flesh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shinsui</td>
<td>Late summer</td>
<td>Orange; very sweet; reliable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yoinashi</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>Brown skin; crisp with butterscotch flavor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Asian pear**

Asian pears often are referred to as “apple pears” because of their crisp, juicy texture. Asian pear trees are considered partially self-fruitful. However, in cold climate areas such as Central Oregon, cross-pollination with another Asian or European pear variety is recommended for improved crop set. Asian pears are ripened on the tree.
European pear
European pear trees generally require cross-pollination to set a good crop. The varieties listed here are usually suitable as pollinizers for each other, with the exception of Bartlett (which may bloom too early to effectively pollinize others). European pears are ripened off the tree—they may require a period of cold storage to ripen to best eating quality.

Stone fruits

Apricots
Apricot trees bloom early in the spring, and their blossoms or young fruit often are damaged by frost. Fruit set in Central Oregon is not reliable.

Sour cherries
Most sour cherries are used for baking in pastries and pies. All of the varieties listed in Table 4 are self-fertile and do not require cross-pollination. Sour cherry trees are more cold-hardy than sweet cherry trees in Central Oregon.

Sweet cherries
All of the sweet cherry varieties listed in Table 4 are self-fertile and do not require cross-pollination.

Peaches and nectarines
Peach and nectarine are two of the fruit trees least likely to bear fruit in Central Oregon. Their early spring blooms (nectarines bloom even earlier than peaches) are very susceptible to frost damage. Although the trees may grow well, fruit set is unreliable. Peach trees require heavy fertilization, pruning, and a site with good air movement. Plant peach trees in a protected area.

Plums
Plums are among the more hardy fruit trees in Central Oregon. All of the varieties in Table 4 are European-type plums and are more reliable than Japanese-type plums in a cold climate.
For more information

**OSU Extension publications**

Many OSU Extension Service publications may be viewed or downloaded from the Web. Visit the online Publications and Videos catalog at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/

Copies of our publications and videos also are available from OSU Extension and Experiment Station Communications. For prices and ordering information, visit our online catalog or contact us by fax (541-737-0817), e-mail (puborders@oregonstate.edu), or phone (541-737-2513).

EC 819  Growing Tree Fruits and Nuts in the Home Orchard  
EC 773  Growing Prunes  
PNW 400  Training and Pruning your Home Orchard  
EC 1005  Pruning to Restore an Old, Neglected Apple Tree  
FS 147  Picking and Storing Apples and Pears

For more detailed information on selection and cultivation of the fruits listed in this publication, see the OSU Extension Service gardening publications list at http://extension.oregonstate.edu/catalog (Select “Gardening” and then “Fruits and Nuts.”)

**Other resources**

Central Oregon Climate and How it Relates to Gardening. Provides climate information, including precipitation, elevation, growing season, hardiness zones, and other factors. http://extension.oregonstate.edu/deschutes/Horticulture/documents/GN1COClimate.pdf


*Good Fruit Grower.* Information about this magazine is available online at http://www.goodfruit.com/about.php

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**Fruit tree suppliers**

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C & O Nursery, Wenatchee, WA. Phone 1-800-232-2636; online at http://www.c-onursery.com/othervarieties.html

Columbia Basin Nursery, Quincy, WA. Phone 1-800-333-8589; online at http://www.cbnllc.com/index.html

Indiana Berry & Plant Company, Huntingburg, IN. Phone 1-800-295-2226; online at http://www.indianaberry.com/index.html

One Green World, Mollala, OR. Phone 1-877-353-4028; online at http://www.onegreenworld.com/

Raintree Nursery, Morton, WA. Phone 1-360-496-6400; online at www.raintreenursery.com

Van Well Nursery, Wenatchee, WA. Phone 1-800-572-1553; online at http://www.vanwell.net/

Willow Drive Nursery, Ephrata, WA (commercial orchard sales only). Phone 1-888-548-7337; online at http://www.willowdrive.com/

**Nursery directories**


Archival copy. For current version, see: https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/ec1622