



# CHERRIES

Cherries come in a variety of colors, textures and flavors. Sweet cherries are those found in stores for fresh eating. Some commonly seen varieties are ‘Bing’, a nice tasty red, or ‘Rainier’, a sweeter yellow cherry considered by many to be exotic. ‘Royal Ann’ is a yellow variety often dolled up to make maraschino cherries. In grocery stores you’ll find tart or sour cherries in the canned food aisle, ready to be made into pies.

**ROOTSTOCKS:** Cherry trees are grafted to roots called ‘rootstocks’ that determine the eventual height and anchoring capabilities of the tree. Rootstocks reduce the size of tree by a percentage of the standard size. For cherries a standard tree matures at 25’. For example a cherry grafted to GISELA rootstock will produce a tree about 40% of the size of a standard, so the tree will be dwarf and mature at 8-12’.

MAZZARD	MAHALEB	COLT	GISELA
Standard	Standard	Semi-dwarf	Dwarf
25’	22-25’	15-20’	8-12’
Very well anchored, good in heavy soils	Better in light soils, drought tolerant	Bears larger crops earlier in life w/ disease resistance and good anchoring	Productive tree w/ large fruit at a young age

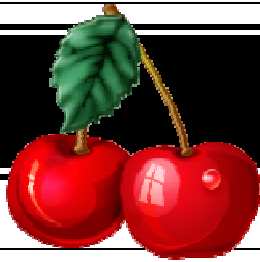
**POLLINATION:** Cherry pollination is somewhat complex. Some varieties are self-fertile, so they can be planted alone and still bear fruit. They will bear larger crops if a cherry of a different type is planted nearby. Some varieties **must** be pollinated, so 2 trees must be planted, and many varieties are picky about which trees will work for pollination. This list should help.

Varieties in **bold** are expected for spring 2012.

Sweet Cherries requiring pollinators	Sweet Cherries – Self-fertile
<b>BLK TARTARIAN</b> Use <b>Bing</b> , Kristin, <b>Lapin</b> , <b>Rainier</b> , Royal Ann, <b>Sam</b> , <b>Stella</b> or <b>Van</b>	<b>GLACIER</b>
<b>EARLY RUBY</b> Use <b>Black Tartarian</b> , Royal Ann or <b>Van</b>	<b>LAPIN</b>
<b>BING</b> Use <b>Black Tartarian</b> , Early Burlat, <b>Montmorency</b> , <b>Rainier</b> , <b>Sam</b> , <b>Stella</b> or <b>Van</b>	<b>BADA BING</b>
KRISTIN Same as <b>Black Tartarian</b>	<b>STELLA</b>
<b>RAINIERS</b> Use <b>Bing</b> , <b>Black Tartarian</b> , Lambert, <b>Montmorency</b> , <b>Sam</b> , <b>Stella</b> , or <b>Van</b>	<b>SWEETHEART</b>
ROYAL ANN Use <b>Black Tartarian</b> , Early Burlat, <b>Montmorency</b> , <b>Sam</b> or <b>Van</b>	
<b>SAM</b> Use <b>Bing</b> , <b>Montmorency</b> , Royal Ann, <b>Stella</b> , or <b>Van</b>	
<b>VAN</b> Use <b>Bing</b> , Early Burlat, Lambert, <b>Rainier</b> , Royal Ann, or <b>Sam</b> .	

***Pie cherries are self-fertile but usually will not pollinate sweet cherries.***

**CULTURE:** Improved soil drainage and ample air circulation are the keys to success with cherries. Mix compost into the soil before planting to ensure an active well-established root system, and place the tree in a location with plenty of space. Cherries are sensitive to drought, so regular, deep watering in summer is essential. We recommend an hour of slow watering once a week. Cherries are susceptible to a variety of diseases and pests. Please ask for a handout at Information for spray guidelines to help you prevent possible problems.



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<b>BADA BING</b>	<b>Self-fertile</b> Bing cherry! Large dark red fruit. Purple-red firm flesh resists cracking. Ripens after Bing.
<b>BING</b>	Large, heart-shaped, freestone fruits with dark red-brownish purple skin. The flesh is purple, firm and meaty. All purpose. Ripens in early July.
<b>BLACK TARTARIAN</b>	Large black fruit with dark red juicy flesh. Very productive! Ripens June. Full size gets to 30'. Zone 5.
<b>EARLY RUBY</b>	Large dark red fruit with sweet purple flesh. Appreciated for early, heavy production.
<b>GLACIER</b>	<b>Self-fertile.</b> Large, attractive, mahogany, heart-shaped fruit. Blooms about the same time as Bing but ripens 4-5 day earlier.
<b>GOLD</b>	One of the hardiest! Fruits are small, golden, firm, and crack resistant. Heavy producer with sweet, juicy fruits of exceptional quality. Ripens July.
<b>LAPINS</b>	<b>Self-fertile.</b> Very large dark purple fruits are richly flavored and very sweet. Heavy producer. Ripens mid-late July.
<b>MONTMORENCY</b>	<b>Self-fertile pie cherry.</b> Known as the standard for pie cherries. Medium to large bright red fruit with yellow flesh and rich, tart, tangy flavor. Clear juice. Grows to 15'. Ripens late June.
<b>NORTHSTAR</b>	<b>Self-fertile pie cherry</b> with large fruit and thin, light red skin. Natural genetic dwarf grows 6-12' tall. Fruit will hold on tree up to two weeks after ripening. Ripens early July.
<b>RAINIER</b>	Large yellow fruit with a red blush. Firm, tasty, clear yellow flesh. Outstanding dessert quality, and excellent for canning. Vigorous, very productive and may overbear which reduced fruit size. Ripens June - July
<b>SAM</b>	Medium to large, jet black fruit with flavorful sweet flesh. Excellent for fresh eating. Blooms late, so may escape late frosts. Vigorous, spreading tree. Ripens in June.
<b>STELLA</b>	<b>Partially self fertile.</b> Large, heart-shaped, dark red fruits with juicy, sweet flesh and a rich flavor. Very vigorous. Good pollinator for other varieties. Ripens mid June.
<b>SWEETHEART</b>	<b>Self fertile.</b> Large, bright red fruit with fine flavor. Ripens in July.
<b>VAN</b>	Very large reddish black fruit. Firm, sweet flesh with delicious flavor. Great all purpose. Heavy annual bearer. Ripens mid June to early July.