



CHERRIES

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Cherries come in a variety of colors, textures and flavors. Sweet

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 near by. Some varieties need to 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 2008.

Sweet Cherries requiring pollinators	Sweet Cherries – Self-fertile
BING Use Early Burlat, Rainier, Sam, Stella or Van	GLACIER
RAINIER Use Bing, Lambert, Sam, Stella, or Van	LAPIN
ROYAL ANN Use Rainier, Montmorency, Sam or Van	STELLA
SAM Use Bing, Montmorency, Rainier, Royal Ann, Stella, or Van	SWEETHEART
VAN Use Bing, Early Burlat, Lambert, Rainier, Royal Ann, or Sam.	

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.



CHERRIES

BING	Large, heart-shaped, freestone fruits with dark red-brownish purple skin. The flesh is purple, firm and meaty. All purpose. Ripen in early July.
BLACK TARTARIAN	Large black fruit with dark red juicy flesh. Very productive! Ripens June. Full size gets to 30'. Zone 5.
GLACIER	Large, attractive, mahogany, heart-shaped fruit. Blooms about the same time as Bing but ripens 4-5 day earlier. Self-fertile.
GOLD	Abundant. Yellow fruit is very sweet. Requires pollinator. Fruit resists cracking. 12-15'.
KRISTIN	Glossy near black fruit. Firm, meaty, juicy and sweet. Heavy crops mid July. Needs pollinator. 12'.
LAPINS	Very large dark purple fruits a rich are richly flavored and very sweet. Heavy producer. SELF FERTILE! Ripens mid-late July.
MONTMORENCY	Known as the standard for pie cherries. Medium to large bright red fruit with yellow flesh and rich, tart, tangy flavor. Clear juice. SELF FERTILE! Grows to 15'. Ripens late June.
NORTHSTAR	Pie cherry with large fruit and thin light red skin. Natural genetic dwarf grows 6-12' tall. SELF FERTILE! Fruit will hold on tree up to two weeks after ripening (if the birds don't get them). Ripens early July.
RAINIER	Large yellow fruit with a red blush. Firm, tasty, clear yellow flesh. Outstanding dessert quality, and excellent for canning. Vigorous, very productive and may over bear which reduced fruit size. Ripens June - July
ROYAL ANN	Large yellow fruit with rose blush. Firm, juicy and sweet flesh. Excellent all purpose. Used commercially for maraschino cherries. Rapid growing upright tree is a heavy bearer. Ripens late June-early July.
SAM	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.
STELLA	Large, heart-shaped, dark red fruits with juicy, sweet flesh and a rich flavor. Partially self fertile! Very vigorous. Good pollinator for other varieties. Ripens mid June.
SWEETHEART	Large, bright red fruit with fine flavor. Ripens in July. Self fertile!
VAN	Very large reddish black fruit. Firm, sweet flesh with delicious flavor. Great all purpose. Heavy annual bearer. Ripens mid June to early July.

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