

The Kansas City Community Gardens Recommended Varieties For The Kansas City Region

Criteria: Recommended cultivars are based on climate adaptability, disease resistance (critical importance), later blooming time, storage life, nutrition, tree size, soil adaptation (root stock), and flavor quality – with an emphasis on “Ease of Maintenance”

Recommended Conditions:

- **Sun Access - Full sun preferred (8+ hrs required, morning sun helpful)**
- **Air Movement – Light wind keeps disease at bay and deters frost. Slight slopes encourage air movement**
- **Soil – Good drainage and good soil fertility, pH between 6.5-7.0**
- **Water – Easy access**

Apple

‘Pristine’ Apple (needs a pollinizer mid-late season flowering) This PRI (Purdue, Rutgers, and Illinois Universities) selection ripens in mid to late July, producing large crops of yellow apples that are crisp and tasty. They are mildly tart and excellent for fresh eating, baking or in applesauce. The trees are healthy, highly resistant to apple scab, cedar apple rust and somewhat resistant to powdery mildew and fireblight.

‘Williams Pride’ Apple (needs pollinizer early-mid season flowering) This PRI (Purdue, Rutgers, and Illinois Universities) selection that ripens in August. Dark red apple with excellent tart fruit quality. Field immune to apple scab; field immune to cedar-apple rust; high level of resistance to fire blight; good level of resistance to powdery mildew.

‘Redfree’ Apple’ (needs a pollinizer mid-late season flowering) This PRI (Purdue, Rutgers, and Illinois Universities) selection is an attractive modern summer apple, with a high level of disease resistance. As well as excellent resistance to scab it also has good resistance to fire blight and cedar apple rust. Ripens early August.

‘Liberty’ Apple (needs pollinizer early-mid season flowering) Liberty is very similar to appearance to McIntosh, but its flavor is a bit more tart and its flesh is crisper. It has a wonderful flavor all its own. It is a good dependable choice because it is highly productive, keeps well and is resistant to all the major apple diseases. It ripens in early-mid Sept.

‘Ruby Rush’ Apple (needs a pollinizer mid-late season flowering) This is a hybrid between 2 PRI apples, Enterprise and Goldrush. This combines the crisp, firm texture and tart flavor of Goldrush with the large sized, red easy to grow Enterprise. This has all the disease resistance of Enterprise, including resistance to Cedar Apple Rust, a major problem for Goldrush

‘Enterprise’ Apple (needs a pollinizer mid-late season flowering) A glossy red apple with an excellent flavor that improves with storage. The tree is productive, vigorous and spreading. Fruit ripens late Sept to early Oct. It is an excellent choice due to its disease resistance (immune to scab and resistant to fire blight, cedar apple rust and mildew) and it stores well.

‘Sundance’ Apple (needs a pollinizer mid season flowering) A pale yellow apple with sweet sub-acid flavor and very juicy. Fruit ripens in mid-October. Immune to apple scab and highly resistant to fire-blight and cedar apple rust with moderate resistance to powdery mildew.

Cherry

‘Carmine Jewel’ | ‘Juliet’ Bush Cherries (self-fertile) 6-7’ tall and wide Perfect for food production and the edible landscape. The tart fruit starts ripening in early June and will sweeten as it continues to ripen throughout the month. The fruits are set under the foliage so the birds don’t even know they are there! NEEDS WELL DRAINED SOIL Carmine 3.5g fruit, Juliet 5.0g fruit (Can be cutting grown or grafted)

‘Black Gold’ Cherry (self-pollinating) (12-15’) Late blooming, disease resistant sweet cherry that has a better chance of missing spring frosts. This variety is self-pollinating and fruits are large, deep red and crack resistant. Ripens early to mid-June. Needs well-drained soil.

‘Jubileum’ Cherry (self-pollinating) (12-18’) Jubileum is a hybrid of the sweet and tart cherry. Fruit is much sweeter and larger than traditional pie cherries. Fruit ripens to a deep reddish purple in early to mid June. Flesh and juice is also deep reddish purple.

‘Montmorency’ Cherry (self-pollinating) (12-15’) An old standard pie cherry (sour) variety with bright red skin on yellow fruit and clear juice. The Montmorency is upright, vigorous and a heavy producer. This cultivar is more productive than others and the fruit has a long ripening season (from late June to early July).

The Kansas City Community Gardens Recommended Varieties For The Kansas City Region

Asian Pear

'Shinsui' Asian Pear (needs a pollinizer) An early Asian Pear, ripening to a russet yellow in mid July. Trees are very precocious and require heavy thinning. Somewhat susceptible to fire-blight.

'Shinseiki' Asian Pear (needs a pollinizer) Shinseiki means "New Century" in Japanese, it originates from a cross between Nijeseiki (Twentieth Century) and Chojuro. Shinseiki ripens in late July. The fruit is round, medium sized, golden with white, sweet, crisp, and very juicy flesh. A good keeper. Excellent fire blight resistance.

'Chojuro' Asian Pear (needs a pollinizer) The first improved Japanese russet pear that originated in Kawasaki, Japan in 1895 by Chojuro Toma. Round shape fruits, ripening to a russet orange in early to mid August. Flavor once fully ripe is incredibly sweet like butterscotch with a wonderful crisp texture. Medium storage life to 4 months.

'Yoinashi' Asian Pear (needs a pollinizer) This round brown skinned fruit is crisp, juicy and aromatic. It sets a heavy crop of medium to large fruits in mid-late Aug. Fire-blight resistant.

'Shinko' Asian Pear (needs a pollinizer) Fruit is medium to large (14-20 oz.) with a brown to golden brown russet. Flesh is yellowish white with a good juicy, sweet flavor. Fruit quality is very good to excellent. Heavy bearer. Stores 3 to 4 months. Attractive golden russet skin; firm, crisp flesh. Ripens in early September. Fine winter keeper. Very productive. MUCH LESS SUSCEPTIBLE TO FIREBLIGHT than most Asian pears.

'Korean Giant' Asian Pear (needs a pollinizer) One of the largest Asian pears sometimes weighing 1lb per or more. Ripens to russet orange in late Sept-early Oct. Long storage life to 6 months.

Recommended Rootstock: OHxF97 (17'-19'), Betulifolia (15' – 18')

Pear

'Harrow Delight' Pear (needs a pollinizer) The earliest pear for our area. 1/3 lb fruits are picked light green in late July. Very productive and somewhat precocious for a European Pear.

'Summercrisp' Pear (needs a pollinizer) Recognized for many years as the hardiest pear from the University of Minnesota, released in 1985. Free of fire blight. An annual bearer. Fruit is pyriform in shape, 2.5-3" in diameter and 3-3.5" long. Blooms early in May. The fruit should be harvested in mid-August when crisp and still green with a red blush. Fruit harvested at that time is sweet and crisp, and may be stored up to 2 months.

'Sunrise' Pear (needs a pollinizer) Yellow pears with a slight blush. Fruit is good for eating fresh or making desserts. Also stores well, lasting 2-3 months in refrigeration. Disease-resistant to fireblight and pear scab. Introduced in 2006. Ripens in early to mid August.

'Potomac' Pear (needs a pollinizer) A crisp sweet pear ripening to a light green in late August. Excellent fire blight resistance. Two month storage.

'Blake's Pride' Pear (needs a pollinizer) Aromatic and juicy fruit. Yellow to golden skin. Resistant to fireblight. Ripens in early September. Excellent keeping variety.

'Harrow Sweet' Pear (needs a pollinizer) Late September to Early October ripening. Blight-resistant release from Agriculture Canada. Ripens about 3 weeks after Bartlett; good storage till nearly Christmas, a true winter pear. Excellent flavor; sweet and juicy. Precocious and productive; usually requires heavy thinning.

Recommended Rootstocks: OHxF333 (12-15'), OHxF87 (15'-17') and OHxF97 (17'-19')

The Kansas City Community Gardens Recommended Varieties For The Kansas City Region

Peach

'Harrow Diamond' Peach (self-pollinating) This selection is the first peach to ripen in our area. Blooms are late enough to avoid frosts and are very cold tolerant. Skin blushes red, flesh is yellow and freestone. Resistant to bacterial spot. Ripens in late June to early July.

'Redhaven' Peach (self-pollinating) This is the standard for Missouri peaches. The fruits ripen around July 20th and are yellow fleshed and freestone.

'Contender' Peach (self-pollinating) This hardy, late-blooming peach escapes late spring frosts. Large freestone fruit is firm, sweet and delicious. Good for fresh use, freezing or for pies. Ripens in late July-early August

Brambles:

'Natchez' Thornless Blackberry Large berries have excellent flavor. Plants are upright, vigorous and hardy. The earliest blackberry! Needs well-drained soil!

'Caroline' Fall bearing Red Raspberry Starts bearing in August and continues until hard freeze. Very productive and hardy with good flavor and berry size. Easy to grow and easy to prune. Needs well-drained soil!

Other Edible Landscape Recommendations

- **Pawpaw – Shenandoah, Susquehanna, NC-1, Pennsylvania Gold;** (needs a pollinizer)
- **Hybrid Peach Almond – Reliable;** (self-fertile)
- **Pecan – Kanza, Colby, Pawnee, Peruque;** (needs a pollinizer)
- **Chestnut – Peach, Qing, Homestead;** (needs a pollinizer)
- **Hazelnut – Slate, Geneva, Carmella;** (needs a pollinizer)
- **Jujube – Li, Lang, GA 866, Coco, Shanxi Li;** (needs a pollinizer)
- **Fig – Chicago Hardy, Peters Honey;** (self-fertile)
- **Persimmon – Prok, Garretson, Nikita's Gift;** (Self-fertile)
- **Crandall Clove Currant** (self-fertile)
- **Cavendish Strawberry** (self-fertile spring-bearer)
- **Dwarf Mulberry – Gerardi** (self-fertile)
- **Serviceberry – Autumn Brilliance** (self-fertile)
- **Elderberry- Bob Gorden, York, Wyldewood;** (self-fertile)

The Kansas City Community Gardens Recommended Varieties For The Kansas City Region

Sources for Plant Materials

Adams County Nursery-Apples, Pears, Asian Pears, Cherries, Peaches; bare-root. www.acnursery.com

39th Parallel Nursery (Lawrence Ks)-Apples, Pears; bare-root <https://39thparallel.com/>

Burnt Ridge Nursery- Traditional and unusual fruits and nuts. <https://www.burntridgenursery.com/>

Cummins Nursery- Apples, Pears, Asian Pears, Cherries, Peaches; bare-root. Good source of Geneva rootstock. www.cumminsnursery.com

Forrest Keeling Nursery-Cultivars of native fruit plants; Pawpaws, persimmons, pecans, etc... <https://www.fknursery.com/>

Grandpas Orchard- Apples, Pears, Asian Pears, Cherries, Peaches; bare-root www.grandpasorchard.com

Grimo Nut Nursery- Hazelnut, Walnut, and other nuts. www.grimonut.com

Honeyberry USA- Bush cherries, Saskatoons, small fruits. www.honeyberryusa.com

Indiana Berry- Blackberries, Raspberries, Strawberries and other small fruits. www.indianaberry.com

Nourse Berry Farm- Blackberries, Raspberries, Strawberries and other small fruits. www.noursefarms.com

One Green World- Many unusal varieties and hard to find fruits. www.onegreenworld.com

Raintree Nursery-Many unusal varieties and hard to find fruits. www.raintreenursery.com

Stark Brothers- Apples, Pears, Asian Pears, Cherries, Peaches. www.starkbros.com

Turkey Creek Nursery (north of Topeka)- Apples, Pears, Peaches, Cherries; bare-root <https://www.turkeycreektrees.com/>

True Vine Ranch- Bluberries. www.truevineranch.com

Local Nurseries

Soil Service Nursery- 7125 Troost, KCMO. 816-333-3232

Suburban Nursery- 4 W 135th KCMO. 816-942-2921. 10501 Roe, OPKS. 913-649-8700. 93rd and K7, Lenexa Ks, 913-897-5100

Family Tree Nursery-8424 Farley OPKS. 913-642-6503. 7036 Nieman Rd Shawnee, Ks, 913-631-6121. 830 W Liberty, Liberty Mo. 816-781-0001

Colonial Nursery- 27610 E Wyatt Rd, Blue Springs Mo. 816-229-1277