



# 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 the 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	MYRO	GISELA
Standard	Standard	Semi-dwarf	Dwarf
30-40’	25-35’	22-26’	12-15’
Very well anchored, good in heavy soils	Better in light soils, drought tolerant	Bears larger crops earlier in life w/ disease resistance & 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 2021.

Sweet Cherries requiring pollinators	Sweet Cherries – Self-fertile
EVANS Use <b>Black Tartarian</b> , Royal Ann or Van	<b>BADA BING</b>
<b>BING</b> Use <b>Black Tartarian</b> , Carmine Jewel, Early Burlat, Rainier, Sam, Stella, or Van	<b>GLACIER</b>
<b>RAINIER</b> Use <b>Bing</b> , <b>Black Tartarian</b> , Carmine Jewel, Lambert, Sam, Stella, or Van	<b>LAPIN</b>
<b>ROYAL ANN</b> Use <b>Black Tartarian</b> , Early Burlat, Sam or Van	<b>STELLA</b>
<b>SAM</b> Use <b>Bing</b> , Carmine Jewel, Royal Ann, Stella, or Van	<b>SWEETHEART</b>
<b>VAN</b> Use <b>Bing</b> , Carmine Jewel, Early Burlat, Lambert, Rainier, Royal Ann, or Sam.	<b>VANDALAY</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. Top dress with compost after 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 during dry periods. Cherries are susceptible to a variety of diseases and pests. Please ask for a handout at our Information Desk for spray guidelines to help you prevent possible problems.



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<b>BING</b>	Large, heart-shaped, freestone fruits with dark red, brown-purple skin. The flesh is purple, firm and meaty. All purpose. Ripens in early July.
<b>BLACK GOLD</b>	<b>Self-fertile.</b> Late bloomer, good pollinator for other late varieties. Deep red, firm fruit. Crack and canker resistant. Ripens early July.
<b>BLACK TARTARIAN</b>	Deep purple to red, med-large, heart-shaped fruit is tender and juicy, with rich, full-bodied flavor. Vigorous trees are exceptional producers.
<b>CARMINE JEWEL</b>	Naturally dwarf, early season, high yield variety produces dark red fruits with tiny pits. Can be eaten fresh late into the season.
<b>EVANS</b>	Extremely hardy, late variety produces bright red, med-sized, semi-sweet fruit. Highly productive!
<b>GLACIER</b>	<b>Self-fertile.</b> Large, firm, dark red fruit with excellent flavor. Crack resistant variety developed at Washington State. Ripens mid-June, just before Bing.
<b>JULIET</b>	<b>Self-fertile.</b> Dark red fruit with a complex sweet-tart flavor balance. Natural dwarf at 8' x 8', ideal for small urban lots or larger containers.
<b>LAMBERT</b>	Strong, vigorous, hardy, heavy bearer of dark red, heart-shaped fruit slightly smaller than Bing. Second only to Bing as a commercial variety.
<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 reduces fruit size. Ripens June-July.
<b>ROMEO</b>	<b>Self-fertile.</b> An attractive, naturally dwarf tree at 8' x 8'. Large, deep crimson fruit with sweet-tart balance, good fresh and for all cooking applications, and canning too.
<b>ROYAL ANN</b>	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- 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 rich flavor. 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.