



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 2020.

Sweet Cherries requiring pollinators	Sweet Cherries – Self-fertile
EVANS Use Black Tartarian , Royal Ann or Van	BADA BING
BING Use Black Tartarian , Carmin e Jewel, Early Burlat, Rainier , Sam , Stella , or Van	GLACIER
RAINIER Use Bing , Black Tartarian , Carmin e Jewel, Lambert, Sam , Stella , or Van	LAPIN
ROYAL ANN Use Black Tartarian , Early Burlat, Sam or Van	STELLA
SAM Use Bing , Carmin e Jewel, Royal Ann, Stella , or Van	SWEETHEART
VAN Use Bing , Carmin e Jewel, Early Burlat, Lambert, Rainier , Royal Ann, or Sam .	VANDALAY

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 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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BING	Large, heart-shaped, freestone fruits with dark red, brown-purple skin. The flesh is purple, firm and meaty. All purpose. Ripens in early July.
BLACK GOLD	Self-fertile. Late bloomer, good pollinator for other late varieties. Deep red, firm fruit. Crack and canker resistant. Ripens early July.
BLACK TARTARIAN	Deep purple to red, med-large, heart-shaped fruit is tender and juicy, with rich, full-bodied flavor. Vigorous trees are exceptional producers.
CARMINE JEWEL	Naturally dwarf, early season, high yield variety produces dark red fruits with tiny pits. Can be eaten fresh late into the season.
EVANS	Extremely hardy, late variety produces bright red, med-sized, semi-sweet fruit. Highly productive!
GLACIER	Self-fertile. Large, firm, dark red fruit with excellent flavor. Crack resistant variety developed at Washington State. Ripens mid-June, just before Bing.
LAPINS	Self-fertile. Very large, dark purple fruits are richly flavored and very sweet. Heavy producer. Ripens mid-late July.
METEOR	Self-fertile pie cherry. Similar to its parent Montmorency; with large, tart, bright red, juicy fruit. Natural genetic dwarf at 8-12'. Blooms and ripens a week later than Montmorency.
MONTMORENCY	Self-fertile pie cherry. 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.
NORTHSTAR	Self-fertile pie cherry 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.
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 overbear which reduces fruit size. Ripens June-July.
ROMEO	Self-fertile. 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.
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- 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	Partially self-fertile. Large, heart-shaped, dark red fruits with juicy, sweet flesh and rich flavor. Good pollinator for other varieties. Ripens mid-June.
SWEETHEART	Self-fertile. Large, bright red fruit with fine flavor. Ripens in July.
VAN	Very large reddish black fruit. Firm, sweet flesh with delicious flavor. Great all purpose. Heavy annual bearer. Ripens mid-June to early July.
VANDALAY	Self-fertile. Big, black fruit with great flavor, disease and crack resistant. Good variety for pollinating others.
WHITE GOLD	Self-fertile. Yellow skin blushed red, with consistently heavy crops of firm, yellow fleshed fruit. Resists cracking and bacterial canker.