

Cherry Trees

Cherry trees can be a wonderful addition to your garden! Not only do they provide nutritious fruit, they produce beautiful blooms that attract pollinators. This handout is a guide to **fruiting cherry trees**. Ask one of our staff for more information about ornamental flowering cherry trees.

Getting Started

Well-drained, loamy soils with a pH between 6.0 and 7.0 are best suited for cherries due to higher nutrient retention. Remediate your soil to meet these requirements if necessary.

Eliminate as many **weeds** as you can from the site before planting. Mulching with **leaf compost, grass cuttings and/or peat moss** will suppress weed growth and help build up organic matter.

Plant your cherry trees **any time after the soil warms up after winter**. The **earlier** in the season, the faster they can establish a **strong root system**. Later in the season works as well, but **will require more frequent watering** until the first frost.

Utilize **organic 10-10-10 slow-release granular fertilizers** at the start of the growing season to promote growth for the rest of the year.

Protect from disease!



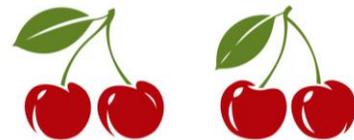
Use **preventative fungicides**, such as **neem oil** or **copper fungicide**, on the trees as the buds begin to break each Spring. Apply one of these fungicides every 10 days for 30 days when there is a 24-hour period without rain. Doing this will protect the foliage and fruit from a variety of diseases!

Light Requirements



For optimum yields, **all** cherry tree cultivars require **6+ hours** of direct sunlight per day.

How many plants are needed to produce fruit?



Most of the cherry cultivars we carry are **self-fertile**, meaning one cherry tree can produce fruit without cross-pollination. *However*, having **more than one** cherry tree will **increase fruit yields** every season. You can either plant two of the same cultivar or two different ones for **better fruit production**.

In general, **sweet cherries** will cross-pollinate easier with other **sweet cherries**, and **sour cherries** will cross-pollinate easier with other **sour cherries**.

Not all cultivars will cross-pollinate with each other, so we recommend asking one of our knowledgeable staff for more information.



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Cherry Cultivars

Below are cherry cultivars we carry for the 2026 season.
Cultivars in **red** are sour cherries, while the rest are sweet.

Bing

Size (h x w): 25-30' x 15-25'

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Pollination: Cross-pollinator required

When it comes to cherries, the Bing variety tops the list in terms of popularity and production. Referred to as the hallmark of cherry trees, Bing is known as the standard for cherry flavor and can be a major producer once mature. **Cannot cross-pollinate with Stella cherry trees.**

Lapins

Size (h x w): 15-20' x 10-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Pollination: Self-fertile

This self-pollinating variety showcases beautiful colors spring through fall. The Lapins cherry produces juicy, dark cherries that are sweet in flavor – perfect for canning, baking, and fresh eating. In the mid-spring it displays ornamental white flowers and dark green leaves that turn to shades of yellow, orange, and red in the fall.

Montmorency

Size (h x w): 15-20' x 15-20'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Pollination: Self-fertile

Meet America's most popular tart cherry for pies and preserves. The Montmorency cherry tree is a cold-hardy hybrid species that ripens early in the season. The medium-large bright red fruit has a firm yellow flesh; clear juice; and a rich, tart flavor that bakers and jam makers love.



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Stella

Size (h x w): 15-20' x 15-20'

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Pollination: Self-fertile

The award-winning 'Stella' is a popular choice because of its plentiful crop of large and sweet dark red cherries. While it does not require a pollinator itself, this tree makes a great pollinator for most other varieties. Beginning in the spring, it displays clusters of fragrant white flowers.

Sweet Cherry Pie

Size (h x w): 10-15' x 10-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Pollination: Self-fertile

This compact, early bloomer produces bright red cherries with a sweet-tart flavor. In mid spring, fragrant white flowers emerge, attracting a variety of pollinators. In the fall, the glossy green leaves turn yellow. Regular care and upkeep are required to maintain a healthy tree that continues to produce.

White Gold

Size (h x w): 15-20' x 15-20'

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Pollination: Self-fertile

White Gold is a very rare and sweet cross of Emperor Francis and Stella. The Tree bears gorgeous yellow-blushed-red sweet cherries that mature in mid cherry-season. They are disease-resistant to brown rot, bacterial canker, and black knot. It also resists cracking. Developed in Geneva, New York it was introduced circa 2003. Ripens in mid-June. Self-pollinating.

Descriptions provided by the Arbor Day Foundation.



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