

## Fruit Tree Guide

The trend for planting fruit trees and self sufficiency is nothing new but has enjoyed a resurgence in recent years. So now that you have decided to enter the worlds of self sufficiency you will need our pollination guide below to get the most out of your investment and enjoy the fruits of your labour!!

### Apple Trees.

Apples need pollinators (if not self fertile varieties) to produce a good crop. In other words you will need to plant another apple tree that flowers at the same time to get the best yield. This enables pollinating insects to cross pollinate the flowers at the same time resulting in more fruit for the table. For ease pollinators for apple trees are normally split into different flowering groups; 1, 2 & 3. Group 1 refers to early flowering types and is pollinated by groups 1&2. Group 2 refers to mid season flowering and is pollinated by groups 1, 2 & 3. Group 3 is late flowering and will be pollinated by groups 2 & 3. Crab apples make excellent pollinators for all apple trees. All apples in groups 1, 2 & 3 can be pollinated by Malus 'Golden Hornet' & 'John Downie'.

Variety (Pollination Group)	Description	Type
Braeburn (2)	Crisp, firm aromatic fruit. Excellent all rounder	Eating
Bramley's Seedling (2) (TL)	Strong acid flavour. Green – yellow flesh	Cooking
Charles Ross (3)	Sweet flavour. Orange-red flushed skin	Eating/Cooking
Cox's Orange Pippin (2)	Aromatic flavour. Deep cream flesh	Eating
Discovery (2)	Hint of strawberry, crisp and juicy	Eating
Egremont Russet (1)	Nutty flavour. Cream flesh tinged yellow	Eating
Ellison's Orange (3)	Aniseed flavour, juicy apple. Red stripes	Eating
Elstar (3)	Juicy flesh with an intense honey flavour	Eating
Falstaff (2)	Green – red colour, crisp, juicy flesh	Eating
Fiesta (2)	Rich, aromatic and sweet. Crisp texture	Eating
Gloster 69 (3) (SF)	Heavy cropper, continental apple	Eating
Golden Delicious (3)	Crisp eater, well known, green, yellow, gold flesh	Eating/Cooking
Granny Smith (3)	Bright green and juicy. No strong taste	Eating
Greensleeves (2)	Crisp and tangy. Pale green – yellow flesh	Eating
James Grieve (1)	Excellent flavour. Crisp and juicy	Eating/Cooking
Jonagold (2)	High yielding apple	Eating
Katy (3)	Sweet, juicy, acid flesh. Bright red fruit	Eating
Laxtons Superb (3)	Good cropper and keeps well	Eating
Lord Lambourne (2)	Sweet, aromatic, strawberry flavour	Eating
Queen Cox (2) (SF)	Same qualities as Cox's Orange Pippin.	Eating
Red Devil (2)	Excellent strawberry flavour	Eating
Red Falstaff (2)	A more colourful sport of Falstaff	Eating
Red James Grieve (1)	Sweet red fruit	Eating
Red Windsor (2) (SF)	Cox type flavour and heavy cropper	Eating
Reine de Reinettes (1) (SF)	Firm, crisp juicy apple. Orange – red flush	Eating
Reinette du Canada (3)	Green-yellow-gold colour. Dry crisp texture	Eating/Cooking
Scrumptious (3) (SF)	Has a honeyed flavour	Eating
Spartan (3)	Dark red, sweet, juicy crisp white flesh	Eating
Starking (2)	Sweet flavour, red flushed or pure red skin	Eating
Sunset (2)	Sharp intense flavour. Heavy cropper	Eating
Worcester Pearmain (2)	Firm, juicy flesh with strawberry flavour	Eating

## **NB;**

TL – Triploid – no viable pollen produced, do not use as a pollinator. Triploids require 2 pollinators from the same group to produce fruit.

SF – Self fertile. Although stated as self fertile yields can be low and unreliable. It is always best to plant with another pollinator to get the best results.

### **Apple Rootstocks**

Apples are supplied on rootstocks that ultimately determine the overall height of the tree and planting distance.

- **M27** - Dwarf rootstock, excellent for small gardens. Eventual height 2m, planting distance 1.8-2.5m
- **M9** - Dwarf rootstock, will need staking. Eventual height 2.5m, planting distance 1.8-2.5m.
- **M26** - Semi-dwarf rootstock, will need staking. Good for bush in limited spaces. Eventual height 3m, planting distance 2.5-3m.
- **MM106** - Semi-vigorous. Generally used for half standard trees. Eventual height 4m, planting distance 3-4.5m.

### **Pear Trees.**

In general all pear trees need to be pollinated, except Conference and Concorde. Although stated as self fertile yields can be low and unreliable. It is always best to plant with another pollinator to get the best results. Group B refers to mid season flowering and will be pollinated by groups A, B & C. Group C refers to mid-late season flowering and will be pollinated by groups B, C and D. Group D refers to late and will be pollinated by groups C & D.

<b>Variety (Pollination Group)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>
Beth (B)	Small, yellow fruit with excellent flavour	Eating
Beurre Hardy (D)	Distinctive flavour. The connoisseur's pear!	Eating
Concorde (C)	Sweet, juicy flesh with a mild flavour	Eating
Conference (B)	Sweet and juicy medium sized fruit	Eating
Doyenne du Comice (C)	Rich, juicy flavour	Eating
Fontandte d'automne (D)	Sweet, musky flavour	Eating
Invincible (B)	Green fruits, yellowing when ripening	Eating
Williams Bon Chretien (C)	Juicy and sweet, turning to gold yellow	Eating

### **Pear Rootstocks.**

- **Quince C** - Dwarf rootstock, will need staking. Eventual height 2.5m, planting distance 1.8-2.5m. earlier to crop.
- **Quince A** - Semi-dwarf rootstock that will need staking. Good for bush in limited spaces. Eventual height 3m, planting distance 2.5-3m.

### **Cherries.**

In general all cherry trees are self fertile and do not require a pollinator to produce fruit, however it is always best to plant with another tree to get the best results.

<b>Variety</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>
Cherry 'Bigarreau Napoleon'	Early to ripen. Dark red, sweet cherry	Sweet
Cherry 'Morello'	Fruit ripen dark red to black	Cooking
Cherry 'Stella'	Large dark red fruits	Sweet
Cherry 'Sunburst'	Flowers late to avoid late spring frosts	Sweet
Cherry 'Summer Sun'	Suitable for cold exposed areas	Sweet
Cherry 'Sweetheart'	Firm fruit produced over a long period	Sweet

### **Cherry Rootstocks.**

- **Colt** - Eventual height 4-5m.

### **Plums, Gages & Damson.**

In general all plum trees are self fertile and do not require a pollinator to produce fruit, however it is always best to plant with another tree to get the best results.

<b>Variety</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Type</b>
Damson 'Farleigh'	Small fruit with blue-black bloom.	Cooking
Damson 'Shropshire Prune'	Small fruit with intense flavour	Cooking
Gage 'Cambridge'	Yellow –green juicy flesh.	Eating
Gage 'Old Greengage'	Yellow green fruit. Sweet taste.	Eating
Gage 'Oullins Gage'	Large yellow fruits with fairly sweet flavour	Eating/Cooking
Plum 'Czar'	Dark purple colour with yellow / green flesh	Cooking
Plum 'Dennison's Superb'	Large green yellow juicy with good flavour	Eating/Cooking
Plum 'Jubilee'	Similar to Victoria but larger fruits	Eating
Plum 'Marjorie's Seedling'	Yellow flesh, sweet when fully ripe, large fruit	Eating /Cooking
Plum 'Opal' (SF)	Flesh has a gage-like texture.	Eating
Plum 'R C Doree'	French variety with green yellow fruits	Eating
Plum 'Victoria' (SF)	Very popular. Large pale red fruit.	Eating/Cooking

### **Plum & Gage Rootstocks.**

- **Pixy** - Dwarf rootstock, will need staking. Eventual height 2.5m, planting distance 1.8-2.5m.
- **St Julien A** - Semi-vigorous. Generally used for half standard trees. Eventual height 4m, planting distance 3-4.5m.

### **Cultural establishment problems**

Over the last few years the industry as a whole has suffered many losses of Damsons, Gages and Plums. These are not thought to be due to any disease or cultural techniques. Indeed changes in tried and tested cultural techniques have not proved successful either over the last few years. These losses have tended to be when the plants have been supplied during the winter season when the plant is dormant and irrespective of whether the plants are bare root or containerised. The main reason for the losses is thought to be due to the changes in climatic conditions in the UK in recent years.

We would recommend that, contrary to most fruit tree planting advice, Plums, Gages and Damsons should be supplied from April onwards when in leaf allowing the plants to establish before the onset of the dormant season. This is no guarantee that the plants will be replaced should they still prove unsuccessful.