

# HOME FRUIT CULTIVARS

## FOR NORTHERN WISCONSIN

Northern Wisconsin gardeners must choose their fruit species and cultivars (varieties) carefully because of the short growing season, late spring frosts, and frigid winter temperatures. Some small fruits—such as strawberries, raspberries, currants, and gooseberries—are especially well adapted to the region, but planting unproven or untested species or cultivars can be a costly, time-consuming gamble.

Only in protected locations with consistent, deep snow cover or in areas less prone to weather extremes can gardeners plant cultivars that are slightly less hardy than those adapted to severe climatic conditions. Such areas include the Bayfield and Door peninsulas. We do not recommend planting peaches, nectarines, sweet cherries, Japanese plums, blackberries, highbush blueberries, apricots, Asian pears, and winter-tender cultivars of other fruits for any part of northern Wisconsin.

The cultivars listed in this publication are considered suited for growing in northern Wisconsin. Planting the proper cultivar and following proper culture go hand in hand. A poor cultivar will always be poor regardless of the culture it receives. Conversely, a good cultivar will not do well if it receives poor care. For information on proper culture of fruit plants see specific bulletins listed herein. It is best to obtain plants from a reputable nursery. By doing so you are assured

that the plant materials are free from disease and true to name. Many plant diseases are spread by taking plant materials from infected plantings. Some diseases are not readily apparent when the plants are propagated, but the symptoms appear later.

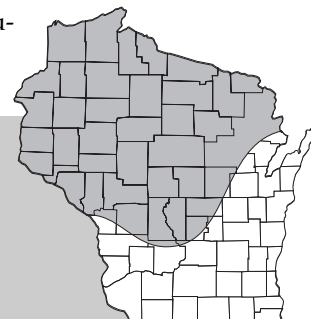
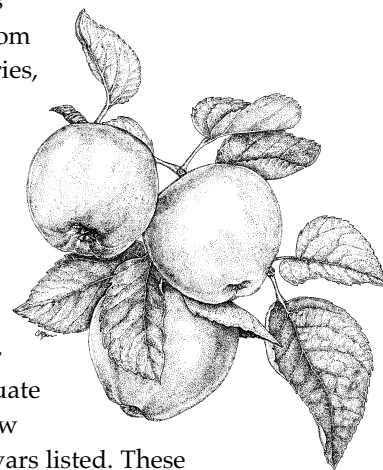
A few cultivars of fruit species such as apricots will survive the northern winters but may produce fruit only one in five years due to blossom damage from late spring frosts. However, the ornamental qualities of these plants may still be justification enough for planting them.

Most of the cultivars in this publication are available from local and mail-order nurseries, as well as garden centers.

### TREE FRUITS

#### Apples

Plant at least two compatible cultivars to provide for cross-pollination and adequate fruit set. Nurseries offer new strains of some of the cultivars listed. These strains may have superior fruit color, spur-type growth or other desirable characteristics, but fruit flavor and size usually remain similar to the original



*Cultivars are arranged in order of ripening within each category. Recommended cultivars are preceded by the symbol, ✱; these have been most successful in home gardens. The symbol, ◆, indicates that a cultivar has not been fully tested for the state and is suggested for limited trial plantings only. The publication also contains a glossary on page 14.*

strain. They should not be used as pollinizers for the original strain. The all-red or highly colored strains tend to exhibit slightly earlier maturity dates than the original strain. New strains are satisfactory for home plantings. See Extension publications *Growing Apples in Wisconsin* (A3565) and *Apple Cultivars for Wisconsin* (A2105) for more information.

For backyards, apple cultivars propagated on a dwarfing or semi-dwarf rootstock are suggested. Malling M.26, M.7, M.7A, or Budagovsky (Bud) 9 rootstocks are satisfactory. However, trees propagated with a dwarfing interstem are not recommended unless the interstem is also fully hardy (for example, Bud.9).

**Lodi** A very early, large, light green or yellow apple with tart, tender flesh. Excellent for pies or sauce; not for storage. The tree is large and upright and very susceptible to fire blight. Tends to bear fruit biennially. Fruit matures about the second week of August.

**Zestar!** New from University of Minnesota. Large fruit with striped red skin. Crisp, juicy, white flesh has a delightful acid/sugar balance. Stores approximately 7 weeks. Good tolerance to fire blight.

✱ **Jerseymac** Early-ripening, red McIntosh-type apple. Excellent flavor for fresh use. For short-term storage (2–3 weeks) only. The tree is very large and susceptible to fire blight.

✱ **McIntosh** Most popular apple in Wisconsin. Very good for fresh use, baking, and sauces; stores well. Fruit tends to drop prematurely. Annual bearing. Very susceptible to apple scab. Spur-type strains such as Macspur, Spur McIntosh, or Marshall McIntosh are similar and suitable. Ripens mid-September.

✱ **Cortland** Very good quality fruit. Tender flesh is slow to brown. Good for fresh use and baking. Annual bearing. The tree has a weeping, willowy growth habit and is winter hardy. Ripens late September.

**Honeycrisp** University of Minnesota origin. Long stemmed, very large fruit with a red blush over a yellow background. The flesh is exceptionally crisp and juicy with a mild sweet flavor. The fruit remain crisp even after extended storage. The tree is moderately vigorous and upright; bears annually. Winter hardy. Ripens late September.

✱ **Spartan** Highly colored, medium-sized fruit with solid dark red blush. Flesh is firm, crisp, white, and juicy. Quality is very good for fresh use and cooking. Trees are medium sized and hardy. Ripens late September to early October.

**Haralson** Originated in Minnesota. Medium to large, roundish-conic fruit, dark red with some striping and conspicuous greenish russet dots in skin. The flesh is moderately tender, white, and juicy with a mild tart-acid flavor. Stores well and is good for fresh eating, cooking, and baking. Very winter hardy. Ripens late September to early October. Red strains such as Haralred ripen up to 1 week earlier and are better for fresh eating.

**Empire** Originated in New York. A high-quality, McIntosh-type red apple. Firm, crisp, and juicy flesh. Good for fresh use. Stores well for 3–5 months. Tree is productive and medium sized; may not survive severe winters. Ripens early October.

**Regent** Medium-sized red fruit. Skin is tough; flesh is crisp and juicy. Flavor is mild and sweet. Excellent for fresh use and cooking. Tree is moderately hardy. Ripens early October.

Older, hardy cultivars such as Fireside (Connell Red), Northwestern (Greening), Prairie Spy, Red Duchess, Wealthy, and Wolf River may be available from specialized nurseries and garden stores.

## Disease-resistant apples

Homeowners who do not want to frequently spray their trees may be interested in a series of new apple cultivars that are resistant to apple scab, cedar-apple rust, and other diseases. They must still be sprayed to prevent insect damage. These cultivars have not been evaluated fully in the state and may be prone to some winter injury. In northern Wisconsin, only limited trial plantings of one or two trees are suggested.

**Redfree** Early-season, medium-sized, attractive red apple. Stores up to 40 days. Medium-sized, upright tree is resistant to apple scab and cedar-apple rust; moderately resistant to fire blight. Ripens late August.

◆ **Novamac** Early-ripening McIntosh-type fruit is primarily red striped. Tree is vigorous and resistant to cedar-apple rust, fire blight, and apple scab.

◆ **Macfree** McIntosh-type with tender flesh and a fine, slightly sweet flavor. Should be stored 1 month before eating. Stores until March. Resistant to apple scab and fire blight. Ripens with McIntosh in mid-September.

◆ **Nova Easygro** A good-quality fall apple. Large fruit with white flesh and a sweet, sprightly flavor. The fruit is blushed red and should keep well. Ripens late September.

**Liberty** High-quality red dessert apple. Crisp, juicy, yellowish flesh. Good for fresh use and cooking. Sets heavy crops and should be thinned early in the season. Scab free and resistant to fire blight and cedar-apple rust. Matures late September to early October.

## Crabapples

\* **Dolgo** Bright red, oval fruit is 1–1¼ inch in diameter. Tart for fresh use. Makes high-quality jelly. Large-statured tree is extremely winter hardy. Ripens late August.

**Centennial** Fruit is usually 2 inches long and has a fully striped red skin. Flesh is yellow, crisp, and juicy. Flavor is mildly acid and considered

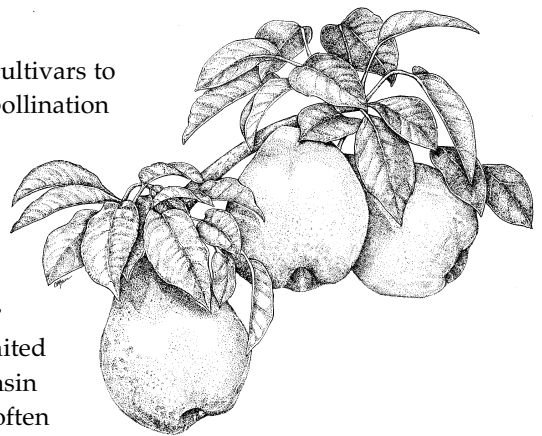
good for fresh use and sauce. Naturally semi-dwarf tree is moderately resistant to fire blight. Ripens mid-September.

\* **Chestnut** Attractive reddish bronze fruit is about the size of a small apple. Fine-textured yellowish flesh has a pleasing, mildly tart, nut-like flavor. Excellent for dessert. Vigorous, hardy tree. Ripens mid- to late September.

## Pears

Plant at least two cultivars to provide for cross-pollination and adequate fruit set. The pear cultivars listed

below are among the hardiest available. Even so, their success may be limited in northern Wisconsin because crops are often lost to spring frosts because they flower early. For best flavor, harvest the fruit while it's still yellow-green and firm, and allow fruit to ripen in storage at 55°–65°F. Most cultivars are susceptible to fire blight. See Extension publication *Growing Pears in Wisconsin* (A2072) for more information.



\* **Parker** Good-quality, medium to large fruit, but does not keep well. Moderately hardy. Harvest in mid-August.

◆ **Summercrisp** Small fruit with crisp, juicy flesh. The tree is hardy and somewhat resistant to fire blight. Harvest in mid-August. A Minnesota introduction.

**Gourmet** Dessert pear from South Dakota. Fruit is medium sized with thick but tender skin and crisp, juicy, sweet flesh. Medium-sized trees with characteristic upright pear growth habit. Very hardy. Matures third week in September.

\* **Luscious** Medium-sized fruit tastes similar to Bartlett but sweeter. Very hardy tree. Considered tolerant of fire blight. Harvest in late September. Originated in South Dakota.

**Flemish Beauty** Very good quality fruit, juicy and tender with fair keeping quality. Timely harvesting is necessary to prevent overripening. Susceptible to fire blight; very susceptible to pear scab, which seriously diminishes fruit quality. Hardy. Harvest in late September.

**Patten** Large fruit has excellent quality for dessert. Among the hardiest of the large-fruited pears. Moderately productive. Susceptible to fire blight.

**Golden Spice** Small, spicy-sweet, aromatic fruit. Good for fresh-eating or processing. The tree is a vigorous grower and a good pollinizer. Excellent winter hardiness.

**Ure** Greenish-yellow, small fruit is sweet with very juicy flesh. Good for dessert or canning. Excellent winter hardiness.

## STONE FRUITS

Stone fruits such as cherries, plums, apricots, and peaches tend to be short-lived in backyard gardens. Stone fruits are less hardy than most other fruit trees. They are also susceptible to damage by trunk borers. Peaches and sweet cherries are not recommended for northern Wisconsin. See Extension publications *Growing Apricots, Cherries, Peaches, and Plums in Wisconsin* (A3639) and *Apricot, Cherry, Peach, and Plum Pest Management for Home Gardeners* (A2130) for additional information.

### Apricots

Apricots bloom primarily on 1-year-old wood. Therefore, they should be pruned heavily to stimulate fruit production. Crops are often lost to spring frosts because they flower so early. In Wisconsin, expect a crop about 1 to 2 years out of every 5 years.

**Scout** An introduction from Manitoba, Canada. Tender-fleshed, golden-orange freestone fruit. Sweet and juicy. Good for dessert and all types of processing, including drying.

**Harcot** Fruit is medium sized and orange with a blush on the cheeks. Freestone flesh is firm and sweet with a good flavor. Good for fresh use and processing. Some tolerance to bacterial spot. Self-fruitful. Ripens mid-July.

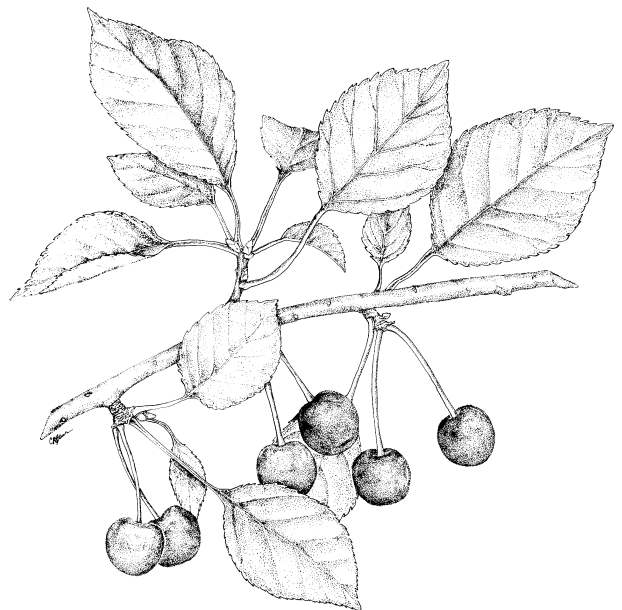
### Tart cherries

These tart cherry cultivars do not require cross-pollination to produce fruit; planting one cultivar is sufficient. Birds may decimate the crop before harvest if the trees are not netted.

✳ **Montmorency** The standard tart cherry of North America. Fruit quality is moderate. Growth tends to be willowy, as much of the fruit is borne at the base of 1-year-old wood. Ripens mid-July. Only moderately winter hardy.

✳ **North Star** Hardest of all tart cherries. Small, good-quality fruit with mahogany-red skin and red flesh. Small, compact tree is resistant to leaf spot. Ripens early to mid-July.

✳ **Meteor** Large, bright red, high-quality fruit with yellow flesh and small pits. Medium-sized, attractive, very hardy tree. Tolerant of leaf spot. Ripens about 10 days after North Star.



## Plums

Japanese plums are not consistently hardy in Wisconsin and are not recommended.

### Blue (European or prune) plums

\* **Mount Royal** Most winter-hardy blue plum for northern Wisconsin, though will not survive severe winters. Small, round, very good quality, attractive fruit. Clingstone type. Good for fresh use, canning, and freezing. Ripens early September. Does not require cross-pollination and needs little pruning.

### Red plums

The following cultivars require cross-pollination. Plant a pollinizer cultivar (see below) with the following to ensure good fruit set. These cultivars require considerable annual pruning to maintain vigor.

\* **Underwood** Round fruit is medium sized with red skin and yellow flesh. Clingstone type. Good quality. Very hardy tree. Ripens early to mid-August, extending over a long season.

**Waneta** Very large fruit has yellow skin blushed with red and deep yellow flesh. Juicy; clingstone type. Good quality. For dessert or processing. Very winter hardy. Bears fruit annually.

**LaCrescent** Small, red-blushed, yellow fruit with aromatic, sweet, tender flesh. Excellent for fresh use and very good for jam. Freestone type. Tree is vigorous, very hardy and productive. Ripens mid-August.

\* **Pipestone** Very large, red-fruited cultivar with yellow, sweet, clingstone flesh. Tree is very hardy and productive. Ripens about mid-August.

◆ **Alderman** Large, burgundy-red fruit. Clingstone type with soft flesh and sweet, slightly astringent flavor. Excellent quality for fresh use and preserves. Ripens third week of August. Introduction from University of Minnesota.

\* **Superior** Excellent-quality, large red fruit. Clingstone type. For fresh use and preserves. Unless hand-thinned, tree tends to overload, resulting in small fruit. Tree is moderately hardy and has a somewhat weeping growth habit. Ripens late August.

**Monitor** Large, bright-red plum with sprightly, sweet flavor. Very winter hardy and prolific bearer. Excellent choice to extend the plum season.

### Red plum pollinizer cultivars

**Kaga** Bright red fruit is small to medium sized. Clingstone flesh is firm, meaty, and characterized by a strong but pleasing flavor. Good for fresh use and cooking. Tree is small, hardy, and productive. Slightly weeping growth habit. Ripens early August.

**Toka** Small- to medium-sized red fruit with sweet, somewhat spicy flavor. Clingstone type. Extremely hardy. Ripens mid-August.

### Cherry plums

Cherry plums are small-statured trees resulting from hybrids between sandcherry and Japanese (red) plums. They are extremely hardy and precocious; they will bear in 1–2 years. They are self-unfruitful and require a pollinizer. Cherry plums will tolerate most soil types. To maintain productivity and longevity, prune heavily to encourage growth of 1-year-old wood.

\* **Sapalta** Fruit is dull reddish purple, somewhat clingstone and of excellent quality for all uses. Tree is small, very productive, and hardy. Ripens late August.

**Compass** Fruit is small and dark purple-red with yellow clingstone flesh. Juicy and sweet but somewhat astringent. Good for fresh use or processing. Vigorous, productive, vase-shaped tree. Ripens late August to early September. Use as pollinizer for all other cherry plums.

## SMALL FRUITS

Small fruits—including strawberries, red raspberries, currants, gooseberries, elderberries, and grapes—are suited to home gardens. They generally are productive and require less space and less precise pest control measures than tree fruits. Whenever possible, purchase virus-free planting stock from a reputable nursery or garden center.

### Strawberries

For cultural information on planting and caring for strawberries, see Extension publication *Growing Strawberries in Wisconsin* (A1597).

#### June-bearing strawberries

✱ **Earliglow** Moderately productive, early-season cultivar. Fruit is firm and has excellent flavor. Fair for freezing. Resistant to root diseases and moderately resistant to leaf diseases. Recommended for protected sites only.

✱ **Annapolis** This cultivar has excellent yield, vigor, runner production, and winter hardiness. Light red, attractive, very large fruit maintain size throughout the harvest season. For fresh use. Flavor is good and improves the further north it is grown. Resistant to red stele root disease.

✱ **Honeoye** Highly productive cultivar. Large, attractive fruit is good for fresh use and freezing. Appears to be tolerant of leaf powdery mildew but is susceptible to red stele root disease and angular leafspot. Very hardy. Ripens early to midseason.

✱ **Kent** Berries are firm, large, and glossy; more mild in flavor and lighter in color than Honeoye. Excellent for all uses. Plant is high yielding and vigorous, but shy in runner production. Hardiness may be a problem some winters. Mid- to late season cultivar.

✱ **Mira** New from Nova Scotia. Large, blocky-conical fruit is bright medium to light red in color and has a mild flavor. For fresh use. Resistant to most foliar diseases and red stele races. Vigorous runner production and good winter hardiness.

✱ **Mesabi** New from University of Minnesota and USDA. Glossy bright red fruit is large and very firm with very good flavor. For fresh use. Vigorous plants may have limited runner production. Very winter hardy.

◆ **Cavendish** High yield potential. Very large fruit is dark red and firm with very good flavor. For fresh use. Resistant to red stele root disease. Ripens midseason. Released from Nova Scotia.

✱ **Glooscap** Widely planted, mid- to late season cultivar. Fruit is large and dark glossy red; flavor considered good. For fresh use, freezing, and preserves. Plant is very productive, vigorous, and produces many runners. Resistant to leaf scorch and leaf spot but susceptible to soil-borne diseases. Very winter hardy.

✱ **Sparkle** High-quality, flavorful berry. Excellent for freezing. Late berries tend to be small and soft. Susceptible to virus disease but resistant to red stele root disease. Very hardy. Ripens late season.

✱ **Jewel** Very glossy, attractive, large firm fruit with excellent flavor. For fresh use or freezing. High yield potential. Good tolerance to botrytis gray mold and post-harvest fruit rots. Moderate winter hardiness.

✱ **Winona** A newer cultivar from the University of Minnesota and USDA. Attractive, very large, glossy scarlet fruit is firm with good texture and pleasing, balanced flavor. Resistant to most leaf diseases and several root diseases. Vigorous plants have good runner production and winter hardiness.

#### Everbearing strawberries

Everbearing strawberries are more winter hardy than day neutrals but produce less-consistent yields.

✱ **Ogallala** Vigorous and productive early-ripening cultivar. Dark red fruit are somewhat soft, medium sized, and highly flavored. Good for freezing. Resistant to leaf spot and tolerant of drought. Very winter hardy.

\* **Ozark Beauty** Attractive, wedge-shaped berries are medium to large and moderately firm, with red skin and flesh. Good flavor. For fresh use and freezing. Sends out many runner plants, but only the mother plant yields fruit. Resistant to leaf spot and leaf scorch. Winter hardy.

**Fort Laramie** Medium-sized, bright red fruit with a sweet flavor. Vigorous plant produces many runners. Tolerant to leaf spot and leaf scorch, but leaves are very susceptible to mildew. Very winter hardy.

### **Day-neutral strawberries**

Unlike June-bearing strawberries, day-neutral strawberries produce flowers and fruit regardless of day length. These plants will produce multiple crops each year if temperatures are sufficiently cool and there is ample moisture and good soil fertility. Plants should be set close together and the runners removed for maximum production. Day-neutral strawberries should be allowed to fruit the first year of planting. Need to replant annually as most plants will not survive winter.

**Fern** Good quality, medium-large fruit is red and conical. For fresh use. Good repeat bloom. Tolerant to leaf spot but susceptible to red stele, leaf scorch, and Verticillium wilt.

**Selva** Very large, conical fruit is medium red and should be allowed to fully ripen on the plant for best flavor. Vigorous, productive plants.

**Seascape** Large, conical fruit is medium firm with dark red skin and flesh. Very good flavor. For fresh use. Resistant to Verticillium wilt and leaf scorch; susceptible to leaf spot.

**Tribute** Bright red, medium-sized, firm fruit. Good for fresh use and processing. High-vigor, medium-sized plant. Resistant to many leaf and root diseases.

**Tristar** Sweet, firm, glossy fruit with a deep red color. Moderate-vigor, medium-sized plant. Bears an earlier crop the year of planting. Adapted to hanging baskets.

## *Raspberries*

It is desirable to grow both fall-bearing and summer-bearing raspberries to extend the fruiting season and to achieve maximum production.

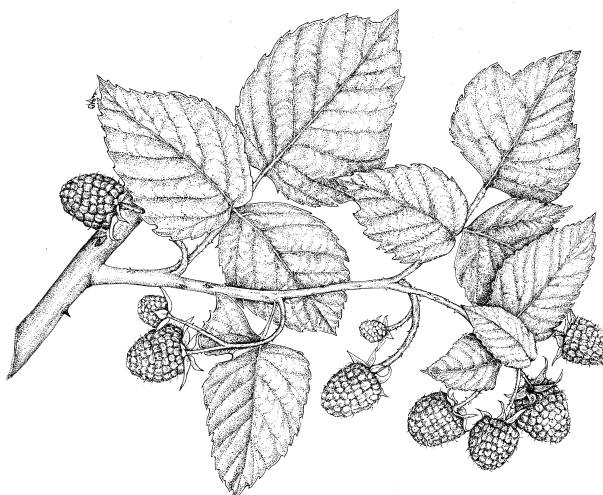
**Black raspberries and blackberries are not hardy and are not recommended for northern Wisconsin. Purple raspberries, which are hybrids of black and red raspberries, are only moderately hardy and will survive only in sheltered locations.** For more information, see *Growing Raspberries in Wisconsin* (A1610).

### **Summer-bearing raspberries**

\* **Boyne** Vigorous, very winter hardy, and productive. Medium-sized, dark red fruit is very good quality with medium-acid, aromatic flavor and average firmness. For fresh use and processing. Ripens early July.

**Nova** Medium-sized to large-sized, bright red, attractive fruit of good quality and somewhat acid. Good for fresh use and freezing. Good winter hardiness. Plants have few spines and above average yields. Resistant to yellow rust. Requires trellis.

**Killarney** A sibling of Boyne from Manitoba. Medium- to large-sized, very bright red fruit with very good flavor and freezing quality. Plants are of medium height, spiny, and produce many suckers. Very winter hardy. Highest yielding cultivar at UW-River Falls.



**Honeyqueen** High-quality, golden fruit. Above-average in size and yield; average firmness. Medium-short canes sucker freely.

**Haida** Fruit is larger, firmer, and sweeter than Boyne; also considered less hardy. Very good for fresh use and processing. Ripens approximately 1 week after Boyne. From British Columbia.

**Festival** Fruit is very attractive with good skin strength and firm flesh. Very good for fresh use, but only fair for freezing. Immune to mosaic virus and tolerant to spur blight. Short but vigorous growth habit and good winter hardiness. Ripens midseason. Originated in Ontario.

✱ **Latham** Older, vigorous, winter hardy cultivar. Productive, late ripening, with good-quality, mild-flavored, soft fruit. Tolerant to several viruses.

#### **Fall-bearing raspberries**

Fall-bearing raspberry cultivars are not suggested for the northern tier of Wisconsin counties adjacent to Lake Superior and the Upper Peninsula. In these counties the growing season is typically too short and cool for good fruit ripening. However, placing floating row covers over canes in early spring can hasten crop development, allowing moderate harvests before a hard freeze.

**Fallgold** Good winterhardiness and vigor. Yellow-gold, medium- to large-sized fruit is somewhat soft, but of excellent quality. For fresh use. Less productive than red types. Ripens in July for summer crop and late August for fall crop.

**Summit** Small- to medium-sized, firm, glossy, bright red fruit with superior flavor. Excellent for processing. Requires trellis.

**Autumn Britten** Large, firm, conical fruit is medium to dark red. Flavor is better than Autumn Bliss. Quite sparse spines. Vigorous plants with good yield potential.

**Autumn Bliss** The standard for fall-bearing raspberries in Wisconsin. Large, oval-conical, somewhat soft fruit is dull red to purplish-gray. Very good flavor. High yield potential.

**Ruby** Very large, conical, glossy, medium to dark red fruit. Average uniformity and firmness. Tart but good flavor. Average vigor and cane suckering. Susceptible to root disease; must plant in well-drained soil. Requires trellis.

#### **Purple raspberries**

Purple raspberries are less winter hardy than red raspberries and should be planted in protected sites only.

**Brandywine** Large, reddish-purple fruit is firm and round-conical. Fair for fresh use but excellent for jams, jellies, and freezing. Tall heavy canes with prominent thorns. Suckers originate only from crowns. High yield potential. Requires trellis.

**Royalty** Probably the best quality purple raspberry. Very large fruit is somewhat soft but sweet. Much better flavor than Brandywine. Excellent for processing and freezing. Vigorous and very high yield potential. Requires trellis.

### *Currants, gooseberries, and elderberries*

Native to Wisconsin woodlands and fields, these small fruits are hardy and moderately productive in cultivated plantings. For best results, plant improved cultivars rather than using plants from the wild. For more information, see Extension publication *Growing Currants, Gooseberries, and Elderberries in Wisconsin* (A1960).

#### **Red currants**

✱ **Wilder** Large clusters of dark red fruit. Sprightly sweet-tart flavor. Very hardy and vigorous bush bears over long period. Ripens beginning in early July.

✱ **Red Lake** Compact, well-filled fruit clusters with large, bright red berries. Mild flavor and excellent for preserves and muffins. Makes superb sparkling red jelly. Precocious, vigorous bush is winter hardy. Very resistant to white pine blister rust. Long ripening season starts in mid-July. Fruit hold well on bushes.



**White Imperial** An older cultivar. The fruit is medium-large, translucent white blushed with pink, and borne in loose clusters. Rich, sweet, mild flavor.. Winter hardy. Ripens mid-July.

**Primus** A newer white-fruited cultivar from Slovakia. Sweetest, richest flavor of any currant. Long fruiting clusters and heavy production on a compact bush. Self fertile.

**Red Start** Medium-sized red fruit on long fruiting clusters is somewhat acid but good quality. Fruit keep well on bush. High yielding and consistent production. Late flowering so little of the crop is lost to frost damage. Ripens early August.

**Rovada** Very large fruit on extra long clusters. Heavy cropping and easy to grow. Late flowering and late ripening.

### **Black currants**

**Ben Sarek** Excellent, compact-growing (3 feet tall). Noted for consistent, very heavy production of large, easy-to-pick berries. Great for jam, jelly, and wine. Highly resistant to frost, white pine blister rust, and mildew. Moderate vigor.

**Ben Lomand** Large berries ripen evenly. Fruit has strong, pungent flavor and produce juice with good color. Grows approximately 4½ feet tall. Heavy producer has frost tolerance, medium vigor, and high resistance to mildew. Easy to grow and prune.

**Crandall** Produces clove-scented yellow flowers in spring and dark red to black berries that can be eaten fresh in midseason. Flavor is milder than other black currants and doesn't have the typical aftertaste. Good for jam, jelly, syrup, and spreads. Bush is vigorous; resistant to white pine blister rust and immune to cane blight. Brilliant red and yellow fall foliage.

**Consort** This Canadian cultivar has medium-long clusters of somewhat soft ½- to ¾-inch berries. Sweet, musky flavor makes this cultivar good for jellies, preserves, juice, and wine. Excellent dried. Immune to white pine blister rust, very hardy. Heavy bearing and precocious. Ripens mid to late season. Self fertile.

**Crusader** Developed in Canada for white pine blister rust immunity. Loose clusters of large fruits. Consistent yields and vigorous grower. Requires pollinizer such as Consort. Ripens late season.

### **Gooseberries**

✱ **Poorman** Hardy and moderately productive. Wine-red fruit is the largest of any American type. Highly flavored and aromatic; can be eaten fresh. Great for pies and jams. Reliably productive and mildew resistant. Somewhat less thorny than most cultivars.

✱ **Pixwell** Hardy and moderately productive. Medium-sized oval fruit is pink and mild flavored when mature. Fewer thorns than most and fruit hangs below branches. Excellent for pies and preserves. Mildew resistant. Thrives in partial shade.

**Captivator** Nearly thornless Canadian cultivar with medium-sized pink to full red teardrop-shaped berries. Sweet flavor. Winter hardy bush grows large and open. Mildew resistant.

**Hinnomaki Red** Berries have tangy outer skin and a sweet flavor. Plants are precocious, highly adaptable, and mildew resistant.



**Hinnomaki Yellow** This cultivar from Finland produces medium-small, yellowing green berries. Outstanding, aromatic, sweet flavor with a slight apricot aftertaste. Bush is slow-growing and short, somewhat mildew resistant, and winter hardy.

**Invicta** A new cultivar that produces very high yields of large, high-quality, green fruit. Berries hang in heavy clusters down the length of the branch. Excellent for pie, jam, or freezing. Branches have prominent, numerous spines. Bush is vigorous and spreading, resistant to mildew.

### **Currant-gooseberry**

◆ **Jostaberry** A fruit developed in Europe by crossing black currant with gooseberry. Fruit is black and elongated when ripe and hangs in clusters. Sweet flavor like ripe gooseberry, but with a touch of sharper currant flavor. Plant grows to at least 5 feet; growth habit like thornless gooseberry. Heavy yields. Considered very hardy. Ripens early July.

### **Elderberries**

**Adams** Both Adams No. 1 and Adams No. 2 are suitable. Very large fruit compared to native plants. Plant is 8 feet tall, vigorous, with strong canes. Considered hardy. Ripens early August.

\* **Johns** Exceptionally vigorous plant, growing 6–10 feet tall. Less productive than Adams, but fruit and fruit clusters are larger. Moderately hardy. Ripens 10–14 days after Adams.

◆ **Nova** Outstanding cultivar. Fruit is large and sweet. Plant is 6 feet tall, moderately hardy, and very productive. Use York as pollinizer. Ripens in August, before York. Originated in Nova Scotia.

\* **York** More productive than Adams cultivars and as hardy. Largest berry of all cultivars; juicy, sweet, purplish black. Excellent 6-foot-tall ornamental with white flowers, black fruit, and showy fall foliage. Last to ripen in mid- to late August.

## *Juneberry* (*Saskatoon or serviceberry*)

Juneberries are large, very winter hardy, ornamental shrubs. They are noted for their dark blue fruit (sometimes used as a substitute for blueberries), showy flowers, and excellent fall color. Juneberries tolerate many soil types and a wide pH range (6.0–7.8). Juneberries begin to bear fruit 2–4 years after planting. Bird netting should be used when fruit ripens.

**Regent** Produces abundant crops of sweet, purplish black fruit. Berries are ½ inch and small seeded. Flavor is almost plum-like. Very hardy and quite disease resistant. Grows 4–6 feet tall. Requires pollinizer cultivar. Ripens early July.

\* **Smokey** The industry standard for yield and sweetness. Blue-black fruit is large (½ inch) and sweet. Ripens unevenly. For fresh use and cooking. Plant grows to 14 feet tall and 18 feet wide. Very hardy, productive, and drought tolerant. Self-fertile. Ripens early to mid-July. Older cultivar developed in northern Alberta.

**Honeywood** Large, pleasant-tasting fruit is borne in clusters of up to 15 berries. Bush is 6 feet tall, very productive, and hardy. Ripens late June.

**Parkhill** Spherical, blue-black, ½-inch fruit is borne in open clusters that ripen evenly. Mild, bland flavor. Grows to 5 feet tall and 7 feet wide with moderate suckering; somewhat susceptible to powdery mildew. Wild selection from Michigan. Excellent ornamental.

**Pembina** The ½-inch fruit is borne in clusters of up to 13 berries. The flavor is considered best quality—excellent, full, sweet, and tangy. Plants grow to 15 feet tall and wide. Limited suckering.

**Success** Loose clusters with ½-inch fruit. Sweet, mild flavor reminiscent of apple. Shrubs only 6 feet high and wide at maturity. Susceptible to powdery mildew. Glossy green foliage turns red in fall. Very old cultivar from Pennsylvania.

## Grapes

Early-season American-type grapes which ripen well before Concord usually will produce satisfactorily in northern Wisconsin. Unfortunately, many high-quality grape cultivars, including Concord, require a 150-day growing season to attain best fruit quality and flavor. Many are not consistently hardy in northern Wisconsin.

**French hybrid grapes and seedless cultivars are not recommended for northern Wisconsin.**

Plant grapes only in warm, sunny, sheltered locations. In many locations in northern Wisconsin, plants are not hardy enough to fruit reliably without mulch protection during winter. For more information, see Extension publication *Growing Grapes in Wisconsin* (A1656).

### Blue- or black-fruited grapes

✱ **Valiant** Blue, medium-sized, tart fruit in small clusters. Quality better than Beta. Used primarily for jams and jellies. Plant is vigorous, very hardy, and productive. Best suited for sandy soils. Considered more hardy than Beta in recent tests. Ripens about the second week in August.

✱ **Beta** Blue, small, tart fruit of fair quality. Primarily for jams and jellies. Vigorous, hardy, and productive plant. More tolerant of wetter soils than Valiant. Matures about mid-August.

**Foch** Small, bluish-black fruits make very good quality Burgundy-type wines. Leading red wine grape among commercial growers in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Vines are very vigorous and disease resistant. The only French hybrid cultivar suggested for northern areas. Moderately hardy. Cane pruning recommended.

✱ **Fredonia** Medium to large, dark blue grape with excellent flavor. Good for fresh use and processing. Used to make a high-quality, unfermented juice. Plant is vigorous, moderately hardy, and moderately productive. Susceptible to mildew. Ripens early September.



**Bluebell** Attractive dark blue berries are medium to large; slipskin type. Juicy with a pleasant fresh flavor. Makes an excellent jelly and light red juice. Very dependable, disease resistant, and hardy. Cane prune.

◆ **St. Croix** Medium to large bunches of small, blue berries. Good flavor with low acid content. The juice is pale rose. Suitable for winemaking and dessert. Quite winter hardy. Very productive with a trailing growth habit. Requires cane pruning. Matures late August to early September.

**King of the North** Medium-sized, dark blue berries are juicy and tart; borne in tight clusters. Excellent for juice and jelly. One of the best of type in Wisconsin trials. Productive and vigorous vines. Cane prune.

### White-, yellow-, or green-fruited grapes

◆ **Kay Gray** Small fruit clusters with medium-sized, seeded berries. Flirt has distinctive, pungent flavor. Suitable for wine and table use. Vigorous vine with trailing growth habit. Ripens somewhat unevenly in late August. Cane prune.

\* **Edelweiss** White Swenson hybrid with medium-sized berries. Good flavor; primarily used fresh. The fruit should be harvested early for best flavor. Plant is vigorous, moderately productive, and moderately hardy. Somewhat resistant to mildew. Cane prune. Usually matures by early September.

◆ **St. Pepin** Excellent multi-purpose grape. Medium-large clusters of medium-sized white berries. Needs some winter protection. Requires a pollinizer, and cannot pollinize other cultivars because it is female. Cane prune. Ripens in early to mid-September.

◆ **La Crosse** White cultivar very similar to St. Pepin, but does not require a pollinizer. Good for winemaking. Harvest early to mid-September.

### Red-fruited grapes

◆ **Frontenac** From the University of Minnesota. Produces aromatic wine reminiscent of cherry or berry. Easy to manage with vigorous growth habit. Productive and quite disease tolerant. Cane prune. Ripens mid- to late September.

\* **Swenson Red** Red grape with compact, medium-sized clusters. Medium-sized fruit with very high quality, fruity flavor and thin skin. Fruit develops red color unevenly and should be left on the vine until fully mature. For fresh use; stores 2–3 weeks. Susceptible to mildew. May require some winter protection. Cane prune. Harvest mid- to late September.

### Blueberries

Blueberries require specialized soil conditions and precise cultural and water management practices. The soil for good blueberry culture must be highly acidic (pH 4.5–5.2) and can be modified to this point with sulfur formulations. Blueberries require a good mulch and should be planted in light-textured soils with high organic matter, good drainage and sufficient moisture. Blueberries must also receive winter protection.

◆ **Patriot** Very large, firm berries are slightly flat in shape and medium blue in color. They hang in large, easy-to-pick clusters. Very good flavor. Open bush is a low-growing highbush, 4–6 feet tall, highly productive and resistant to Phytophthora root rot. Flowers exhibit frost tolerance. Fiery orange fall color.

◆ **Northcountry** Bushes are 1½ feet tall and 3 feet in diameter. Sky blue berries are ½-inch in diameter, with a sweet, fresh flavor similar to wild lowbush blueberry. Yields slightly less than Northblue and ripening begins 5 days earlier. Requires a pollinizer such as Northblue. Minnesota introduction.

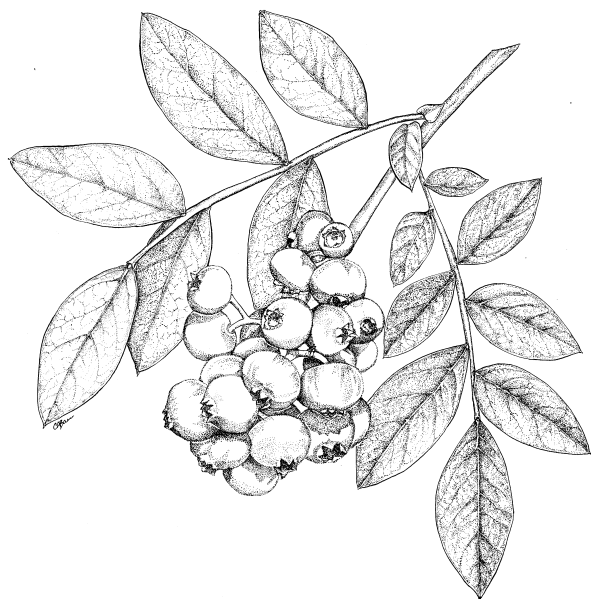
◆ **St. Cloud** Reaches 4 feet in height and diameter when mature. Fruit firmness and quality are superior to Northblue. Berries are slightly smaller than Northblue, although yields are similar. Requires a pollinizer. Ripens with Northcountry. Minnesota introduction.

◆ **Polaris** Very firm, aluminum-blue, medium-sized fruit are highly aromatic with exceptional flavor. Bush grows to 4 feet tall and wide. Moderately productive, rivals Northblue in colder areas. Requires pollinizer. Introduction from University of Minnesota.

◆ **Northblue** Short-statured plant reaching 2–2½ feet in height; glossy dark green leaves turn a beautiful brilliant red in fall. Fruit is dark blue and firm, with very good fresh flavor. Processed flavor is superior to many highbush cultivars. Yields up to 9 pounds per bush. Self-fertile, but gives higher yields with a pollinizer. Very reliable producer. Ripens over a 3-week period beginning mid-July.

◆ **Northsky** Plant is similar to lowbush blueberry, reaching only 10–20 inches in height. Northsky has medium-sized, sky blue fruits with excellent wild blueberry flavor. Attractive dark red fall color. Less winter injury than others due to better snow cover. Ripens with Northblue.

**Chippewa** Very light blue fruit are medium large, firm, and very sweet. Compact plants grow 4 feet in height and diameter. Production and fruit size are similar to Northblue. One of the most winter hardy cultivars. Fiery red fall foliage. Requires pollinizer. Introduction from University of Minnesota.



## *Lingonberries*

Lingonberries are traditionally grown in northern Europe and Scandinavian countries. The ever-green plants are attractive and very dwarf (less than 16 inches tall). They produce small, bright red fruit with an aromatic, tart flavor that is excellent for cake, jams, jellies, sauces, and fruit drinks. Lingonberries require acidic soils conditions similar to blueberries (pH 4.5–5.2) and can be spaced like strawberries, filling in a solid bed 12–24 inches wide.

**Red Pearl** Dark red berries are of excellent quality. Plants grow to 16 inches tall. Adaptable to different types of soils, establishes quickly.

**Sussi** Very good quality berries are medium large and ripen uniformly. Plants are vigorous and grow to 6–10 inches tall. Bright green foliage.

**Splendor** Medium-large fruit are bright carmine red. High vigor and production. Precocious plants reach height of 6–8 inches with moderate spread. Ripens mid- to late September. Introduction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**Regal** Fruits are slightly smaller than average. Very high yielding plants grow up to 9 inches tall, are highly vigorous, and moderately spreading. Ripens approximately 4–6 days later than Splendor. University of Wisconsin-Madison introduction.

**Sanna** Large, very good quality fruit. Excellent production. Grows up to 12 inches tall and spreads slowly.

## GLOSSARY

**Cultivar** The term now used worldwide in horticulture in place of variety. A contraction of cultivated variety.

**Hardiness** The ability to withstand cold winter temperatures.

**Keeping quality** The fruit's ability to retain acceptable firmness and flavor in refrigerated storage.

**Pollination** The transfer of pollen from one flower to another.

**Pollinizer** The cultivar used as a source of pollen for cross pollination.

**Rootstock** The below-ground portion of fruit trees to which the scion cultivar is budded or grafted. Rootstocks are usually of the same species as the scion, but of a different origin.

**Self-fruitful** Not requiring pollination from another cultivar to set fruit.

**Spur type** Trees with fruiting spurs closer to each other than standard cultivars. The trees are slightly smaller than standard cultivars.

## NURSERIES

Nursery sources for the plant materials listed in this publication can be easily found on the Internet. Use any search engine and include the cultivar name plus the type of fruit (for example, Haida raspberry). You can also check with local nurseries and garden centers.

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## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For specific fruit crops, more detailed information on cultural and pest control requirements is available in the following

Cooperative Extension Service publications available through your county Extension offices.

### *Tree fruits*

*Apple Cultivars for Wisconsin*  
(A2105)

*Apple Pest Management for Home Gardeners* (A2179)

*Apricot, Cherry, Peach, and Plum Pest Management for Home Gardeners* (A2130)

*Growing Apples in Wisconsin*  
(A3565)

*Growing Apricots, Cherries, Peaches, and Plums in Wisconsin* (A3639)

*Growing Pears in Wisconsin*  
(A2072)

*Rootstocks for Fruit Trees in Wisconsin* (A3561)

*Why Fruit Plants Die* (A3121)

### *Small fruits*

*Growing Currants, Gooseberries, and Elderberries in Wisconsin*  
(A1960)

*Grape Pest Management for Home Gardeners* (A2129)

*Growing Grapes in Wisconsin*  
(A1656)

*Growing Raspberries in Wisconsin*  
(A1610)

*Raspberry Pest Management for Home Gardeners* (A2128)

*Growing Strawberries in Wisconsin* (A1597)

*Strawberry Pest Management for Home Gardeners* (A2127)

*Why Fruit Plants Die* (A3121)

*Home fruit cultivars*  
FOR NORTHERN WISCONSIN



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