

Selecting Pear 2026

Selecting Your Pear Trees: Thanks to cold climate fruit breeders at the University of Minnesota and other northern research stations, there are several varieties hardy to our region. Most are best suited to USDA zone 4, but there are a couple of varieties that will grow well in USDA zone 3. Tawara and Juicy Jewel Asian Pears are partially self-fertile and will produce a decent crop unaided, but for bumper crops we recommend you partner up.

Pears require cross-pollination: With few exceptions, European pears are not self-fertile trees and will need another variety of European or Asian pear tree nearby for cross pollination. Since so few pear varieties grow in Montana, Swan River Gardens makes sure that all the varieties we offer work well together.

PEARS	AVG Ripening Date	Blooms	Pollination	Height	Zone	Flavor	Texture	Fresh	Pies	Canning	Storage
Clapps (semi-dwf)	Mid-August	Early May	Any Pear	10-15'	4	Sweet	Crisp	Very Good	Unknown	Unknown	Very Good
Early Gold (semi-dwf)	Early-August	Early May	Any Pear	25-35'	2	Sweet	Juicy	Good	Good	Good	Fair
Golden Spice (semi-dwf)	September	Early May	Any Pear	15-20'	3	Tart	Crisp	Fair	Poor	Very Good	Very Good
Luscious (semi-dwf)	Mid-September	Early May	Parker	12-15'	4	Sweet	Juicy	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Parker (semi-dwf)	August	Early May	Any Pear	12-15'	4	Sweet	Tender	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Patten (semi-dwf)	Mid-September	Early May	Any Pear	12-15'	4	Sweet	Tender	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good	Fair
Summerscrisp (semi-dwf)	Mid-August	Early May	Any Pear	12-15'	4	Sweet	Crisp	Very Good	Fair	Poor	Good
Ure (semi-dwf)	Mid-August	Early May	Any Pear	15-20'	3	Sweet	Juicy	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Poor
Asian Juicy Jewel (semi-dwf)	Mid-August	Early May	Any Pear	10-15'	4	Sweet	Crisp	Very Good	Unknown	Unknown	Very Good
Asian Tawara (semi-dwf)	August-September	Early May	Any Pear	15-18'	4	Sweet	Crisp	Excellent	Fair	Excellent	Good

We offer an extensive line of pear trees for our 202 season. Please refer to this chart below for more information about their key attributes and selling points. Our inventory changes throughout our selling season so be sure to check our website swanrivergardens.com for our most up to date availability.

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Quick facts

- Two varieties are generally needed for successful pollination and fruit set.
- They can be grown organically in Montana.
- Pear trees require full sun to produce the most fruit.
- Prune annually to keep the tree healthy, productive and looking its best.
- It can take 3 to 10 years for trees to begin flowering and producing fruit.
- Mature pear trees are large and produce a lot of fruit in a short window of time.
- Fruit should be picked at a mature stage and then allowed to ripen indoors.

Harvest pears when

- Skin color turns from dark green to lighter green.
- Dots on the skin turn brown (not all varieties do this).
- Skin develops a smoother, waxy look and feel.



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