

Selecting Plum Trees 2026

Selecting your Plum Trees: Plums are very much at home in the Montana garden, provided you choose the right varieties. There are quite a few hybrid plum varieties and a couple of European plum varieties that perform well in most areas of North-West Montana. Plums, along with tart cherries, are the most reliable stone fruits for Montana gardens. Fruit of various varieties range from deep purple to red to pale yellow, and the flavors are equally varied.

Plums require cross-pollination: With few exceptions, plums are not self-fertile trees and will need another variety of plum tree nearby for cross pollination.

We offer an extensive line of plum trees for our 2026 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.

PLUMS	AVG Ripening Date	Blooms	Pollination	Zone	Flavor	Texture	Fresh	Preserves	Baking	Storage
Plum Black Ice (purple)	Early August	Late April	Toka	4	Sweet	Juicy	Very Good	Jam/Jelly	Very Good	Poor
Plum Compass Cherry (red)	Late July	Early May	self-fertile	3	Tart	Juicy	Good	Jam/Jelly	Good	Excellent
Plum Mount Royal (purple)	Late August	Early May	self-fertile	4	Sweet	Firm	Very Good	Jam/Jelly	Good	Poor
Plum Pembina (red-blue)	Late August	Early May	Toka	3	Sweet	Juicy	Good	Jam/Jelly	Fair	Poor
Plum Pipestone (red)	Late August	Late April	Toka	3	Sweet	Juicy	Very Good	Jam/Jelly	Fair	Poor
Plum Stanley (purple prune)	Early September	Late April	self-fertile	5	Sweet	Firm	Very Good	Drying	Very Good	Poor
Plum Superior (red)	Late August	Late April	Toka	4	Sweet	Juicy	Excellent	Jam/Jelly	Good	Poor
Plum Toka (red)	Mid August	Late April	Any other	3	Sweet	Juicy	Excellent	Jam/Jelly	Fair	Poor

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Quick facts

- Plums like cherries and other stone fruits should be pruned in dry weather.
- Two varieties are generally needed for successful pollination and fruit set.
- Self-fertile varieties will produce more fruit if a second self-fertile variety is planted.
- They can be grown organically in Montana.
- Plum trees require full sun during summer to produce the most fruit.
- Prune annually to keep the tree healthy, productive and looking its best.
- It can take 3 to 5 years for trees to begin flowering and producing fruit.
- Mature plum trees produce a lot of fruit in a short window of time.
- All stone fruits bloom very early in the spring. If flowers are damaged by freezing temperatures, you'll get no fruit that year, but you'll probably get fruit the following year.



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