Tree Fruit Varieties for Idaho

Apricots

Note: Apricots are quarantined by the Idaho Department of Agriculture to prevent the introduction of diseases. Except for the fruit, no plant parts can be imported into Idaho unless they have been grown in a disease-free area and are accompanied by a phytosanitary certificate. Homeowners should purchase their apricot stock at nurseries in Idaho.

Although apricots are somewhat more cold hardy than peaches, most varieties are still injured at temperatures of -20 to -25^{o}F. The trees bloom very early in the spring and it is difficult to grow apricots in most parts of Idaho because of frequent frost injury to blossoms. The most reliable production will be in the fruit-growing region of southwestern Idaho.

Apricots are generally self-fruitful, but most experts recommend planting two varieties close together to ensure good fruit set. Varieties are commonly grafted onto apricot or Lovell peach seedling rootstocks, although more cold hardy rootstocks are sometimes available. The trees grow to about 20 feet tall and should bear their first crop in three to four years. Plant on well drained, light to medium-textured soil that is neutral to slightly acid. Place the trees on slopes away from frost pockets. The most cold hardy varieties include:

Apricot Varieties for Northern, Central, and Southeastern Idaho
Harcot - Produces medium-large fruits that have a slight red blush. The flesh is smooth, fine-grained, sweet, and has good flavor. Reportedly has good resistance to perennial canker, bacterial spot, and brown rot. Developed in Canada. Hargrand - Produces large fruits to 2.5" in diameter. The orange flesh is smooth and contains a freestone pit. Suitable for fresh or processing uses. Reportedly tolerant of perennial canker, bacterial spot, and brown rot. Developed in Canada. Harlayne - Produces medium-sized fruits with that have a red blush. Firm, orange flesh with good flavor and a freestone pit. Suitable for fresh or processing uses. Reportedly resistant to perennial canker and brown rot and moderately resistant to bacterial spot. Developed in Canada. Harogem - Produces small to medium-sized fruits with a red blush. Firm, orange flesh with good flavor and a freestone pit. Developed for the fresh market. Reportedly resistant to perennial canker and brown rot and moderately resistant to bacterial canker. Developed in Canada. Moongold - Produces medium-sized fruits with yellowish-orange flesh, sweet and slightly acid flavor, and freestone pit.

Suitable for fresh and processing uses. Reportedly vigorous and disease-free. Fruits may ripen unevenly and fruit cracking and premature fruit drop have been reported. Needs 'Sungold' as a pollinator. Developed at the University of Minnesota.

Sungold - Produces medium-sized fruits with orange flesh, sweet and mild flavor, and freestone pit. Suitable for fresh or processing uses. Heavy bearer. Pollinate with 'Moongold.' Developed at the University of Minnesota.

Cherries

Sweet Cherries

canned uses. Resists cracking. The fruits have commercial size and quality, but do not ship well to distant markets. Trees are vigorous, upright, bear early, and fruit heavily. An excellent pollinator. Pollinate with Bing, Napoleon, Rainier, Sam, or Stella. The most cold hardy sweet cherry.

Recommended sweet cherry varieties for southwestern Idaho and the lower Clearwater River drainage near Lewiston

Bing - Large fruits have dark red to brownish purple skins and firm, purple flesh. Excellent flavor and a standard commercial variety for fresh and canning markets. Only moderately hardy. Susceptible to cracking. Pollinate with Black Tartarian, Mazzard, Montmorancy, Rainier, Sam, Van, Windsor, or Stella.

Chelan - A popular early season, export-quality dark red sweet cherry. Similar to Bing in appearance, the fruit is medium-to-large in size, with a mahogany red skin and medium-to-dark red flesh. It ripens 10 to 12 days before Bing, has good firmness and flavor, and exhibits lower susceptibility to both rain-induced cracking and heat-induced double/spur fruit formation than Bing. It flowers precociously and fruits heavily, requiring good management to achieve optimal fruit size. Precocious rootstocks are not needed for early cropping and may make management for optimal fruit size more intensive. Cross-pollinizers include Rainier, Bing, Van, and Index. Chelan is incompatible with Burlat, Tieton and PC 7214-3. Do not propagate on Mahaleb rootstocks.

Rainier - A large, yellow fruit best suited for fresh use. Vigorous and very productive. Resistant to cracking. Pollinatis

Tart Cherries

Tart or pie cherries are more cold hardy than sweet cherries, being rated to -40°F or colder. They are more suitable for production in most Idaho locations than their sweet cousins. The fruits are tart and make excellent pastries. The trees grow from 6 to 15 feet tall, depending on variety, and bear about three years after planting. Most tart cherries are self-fruitful, so you only need one tree or cultivar. Montmorancy does crop best when planted with another variety. Recommended varieties include:

Meteor - The large, bright-red fruits resemble Montmorancy. The fruits are tart, juicy, and have colorless juice and a free pit. A natural genetic dwarf that grows 8-12 feet tall. Self fruitful. The most cold hardy tart cherry variety that is commercially available. Developed at the Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm.

Montmorancy - This variety is the standard for tart cherries. The fruits are mediumr mmeaeMi

Nectarines, by the way, are simply peach

Developed in Ontario, Canada.

Zee Lady - The fruits have an orange blush and yellow, freestone flesh. High-quality fruits are excellent for freezing. Heavy producer. A commercial variety grown in southwestern Idaho.

Nectarines

Arctic Joy - White flesh. A commercial variety grown in southwestern Idaho.

Arctic Pride - A bright red-over-white variety with white, clingstone flesh. The flavor is subacid. Produces heavily but susceptible to powdery mildew. A commercial variety grown in southwestern Idaho.

Fantasia - The large, bright red-over-yellow fruits have yellow flesh of excellent quality. Can be harvested firm and tangy or soft-ripe and sweet. The trees are small and reliably productive. Susceptible to peach leaf curl, brown rot, Oriental fruit moth, and bacterial leaf spot. Developed in California. A commercial variety grown in southwestern Idaho.

Harblaze - The red-blushed fruits are semi-freestone and ripen during the early-mid season. The fruit softens quickly near maturity. Good resistance to brown rot, bacterial leaf spot, and powdery mildew. The trees are vigorous and considered cold hardy. Developed in Ontario, Canada.

Summer Fire - The large, dark red fruits have yellow, high quality, clingstone flesh. The flavor is good. A commercial variety grown in southwestern Idaho.

Sunglo - The large, red-over-yellow have yellow, sweet, semi-clingstone flesh. The fruits have long storage and shelf lives and are excellent for the packed, retail, or roadside markets. Ripens in midseason.

pollinator.

20th Century - The best known Asian pear, derived from Japan. The medium-sized yellow fruits are round to lopsided and have long stems. The skin is thin and tender and the flesh juicy and crisp with a bland flavor. The fruits have excellent quality and store well. Very productive and requires thinning to produce well-sized fruits. Pollinate with Chojuro, Hosui, Bartlett, or Shinseiki. Susceptible to many diseases. Hardy in Plant Hardiness Zones 6-9.

Plums and Prunes

Note: Plums and prunes are quarantined by the Idaho Department of Agriculture to prevent the introduction of diseases. Except for the fruit, no plant parts can be imported into Idaho from certain states unless they have been grown in a