



Apple Tree Information:

Cross Pollination

Apple trees are not self-fertile. At least two different varieties should be used in each apple planting to serve as a source of pollen for the other variety to get the best fruit set. Cross-pollination is possible only when different varieties bloom at approximately the same time. Length of bloom is usually 7 to 15 days. Early bloomers should be planted with early or midseason bloomers. Late bloomers would be planted with late or midseason bloomers, so there is overlap of bloom times. For the best pollination, apple trees should be within 100 feet or less of each other. Wind does not carry pollen from one apple tree to another. Consequently, **bees are indispensable in an orchard.** Crabapples are often used to pollinate apple trees because they are such strong pollinators.

Apple Rootstocks

Standard (Std)

Standard rootstock will produce full-sized trees. In rich soil a standard tree may grow to a height of 20-25' and a width of 25' at full maturity. Standard trees will generally begin bearing 5-8 years after planting.

Semi-Dwarf (S-M7 - Malling 7A)

A semi-dwarf apple tree will grow to 12-15' tall and 14' wide at maturity. Semi-dwarf trees begin to produce fruit at an earlier age, usually 4-5 years after planting. This is our most popular rootstock and we carry primarily semi-dwarf apple trees.

Dwarfing Rootstocks

Dwarf apple trees grow to 9-12' tall and 10' wide at maturity. Dwarf trees begin to produce fruit at an earlier age, usually 3-4 years after planting.

Dwarfing rootstocks will only reduce the size of the tree – not the size of the fruit. Dwarf trees are easier to prune, spray and harvest.

Never plant grafted trees with the graft below ground level to avoid rot and/or scion-rooting causing the loss of dwarfing characteristics.

Plum Tree Information:

Most plum varieties are crosses between Japanese and American plums. While this creates hardy and delicious fruit it also creates a nearly sterile tree. Unlike apples, just having two different plum varieties flowering simultaneously will not insure proper cross-pollination. Use Toka or our native, American Plum as pollinators for other plum trees. European, Native, or Prune type plums (American or Mt. Royal) are generally self-fruitful/self-pollinating. All of our plum trees are grown on standard Prunus americana (American Plum) rootstock and average 12' in height when mature.

Pear Tree Information:

Cross Pollination

Most pears require a pollinator. Most pears bloom in May (at the same time) and are suitable pollinators. With small amounts of nectar and low sugar content, pears require more pollinators and bees than any other fruit.

Pear Rootstocks

Standard (Std)

Standard Pears are on Pyrus ussuriensis root stock and grow to a mature height of about 25'.

Semi-dwarf (S-333)

A semi-dwarf pear is budded on Oldhome x Farmingdale 333 rootstock and grows to a mature height of about 15'. (Not commonly available)

Peach Tree Information:

Available for spring planting only. Because most peach tree varieties are marginally hardy rather than zone hardy in our area we do not recommend them for fall planting. Peach trees are budded on Prunus americana rootstock and generally grow 15-20' tall. They are self-fruitful and do not require more than one variety of peach tree for fruit production. Peach trees bloom in early May and most ripen in August.

Cherry Tree Information:

Cherry trees are self-fruitful. You do not need more than one tree to produce fruit. Cherry trees grow to approximately 10-12' Tall and about 6-8' Wide. Cherries bloom in early May. Ripening dates vary by variety but most ripen around July. Most of the varieties we carry are tart cherries, best suited to making pies, preserves and sauce. Evans Bali is the variety we have that is best for fresh eating.

Protect your fruit trees from bark damage by mice, rabbits and deer by installing an inexpensive white plastic trunk protector.