

EUROPEAN PEARS

For the home garden, pears are thought to be among the most manageable of fruit trees, as well as being prized for their ornamental value. Pears are also more tolerant of heavy, wet soils than most fruit trees, making them a good choice for western Oregon.



The fruit of European pears is delicious eaten fresh and can be easily dried or canned. The fruit must be picked before ripe and ripened off the tree. In order to tell the right time to harvest, wait until a full size fruit falls off the tree. Look for a black ring marking the joint between the stem of the fruit and the spur. If there is a black ring, gently lift and twist a fruit. A mature pear should easily separate from the spur. Another test is the subtle shift in color from green to pale green or golden green (the flesh should still be hard).

Bloom Order:

Varieties in Bold Expected for 2024

EARLY	MID	LATE
Aurora	Anjou	Bosc
Bartlett	Colette	Comice
Butirra P. M.	Conference	Maxine
Highland	Flemish Beauty	Rescue
Moonglow	Luscious	Seckel
Red Bartlett	Maxie	
Ubleen	Reddy Robin	
	Red Anjou	
	Summercrisp	

Although the blossoms are attractive to people, they are relatively unattractive to bees. Therefore, pears should be planted next to each other, about 15' apart, for better pollination and production.

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Varieties Expected for 2024

ANJOU	Large, conical, light green fruit with mild, fine textured, melting white flesh. Best after 2 months in cold storage. Ripens late September.
BARTLETT	Semi self-fertile, but higher yields with another variety (Except Seckel). Large, golden yellow fruit with a red blush. Smooth, juicy white flesh. Mid-Aug to mid-September.
BOSC	Med-large, deep yellow fruit. Tender, aromatic, juicy, fine textured, white flesh with rich, slightly acid flavor. Ripens early October.
BUTIRRA PRECOCE MORETTINI	One of the best early varieties, with meltingly juicy, sweet, white flesh. Vigorous, heavy bearer, ripens 20 days before Bartlett. Good keeper too. Early August.
COMICE	Blushing yellow fruit with juicy, firm, fine-textured flesh. Premium dessert pear, ripens late Sept. Best after a month in cold storage.
FLEMISH BEAUTY	Large, round, yellow fruit blushed red. Tender, sweet, aromatic flesh perfect for slicing/drying. Good pollinator. Ripens late September.
RED ANJOU	Identical in every way to standard Anjou, but with a deep red skin that deepens as it ripens. Sweet, mild flavor that peaks two weeks after picking. Great keeper at up to 8 months!
RESCUE	Self-fertile. Large, elongated, yellow fruit blushed and striped in orange and red. Creamy, buttery flesh with mild, sweet flavor and small core. Ripens Sept. and keeps into Dec.
SECKEL	Self-fertile, but produces better crops if cross pollinated. (Cannot cross with Bartlett). Small, yellow-brown fruit with extremely sweet, very juicy flesh. Distinctive, rich, spicy flavor. Excellent all-purpose variety.
UBILEEN	Yellow skin blushed red, with buttery, flavorful flesh. Vigorous, disease resistant variety from Bulgaria. Ripens early to mid-July.