

CHERRY POLLINATION

Cherries come in a variety of colors, textures and flavors. Sweet cherries are those found in stores for fresh eating. Some commonly seen varieties are ‘Bing’, a nice tasty red, or ‘Rainier’, a sweeter yellow cherry popular in the Northwest. ‘Royal Ann’ is a yellow variety often dolled up to make maraschino cherries. In grocery stores you’ll find tart or sour cherries in the canned food aisle, ready to be made into pies.

POLLINATION: Cherry pollination is somewhat complex. Some varieties are self-fertile—they can be planted alone and still bear fruit. They will bear larger crops if a compatible cherry of a different variety is planted nearby. Other varieties *must* be pollinized by a different variety to have any fruit. This list should help:

Varieties in BOLD expected for spring 2026

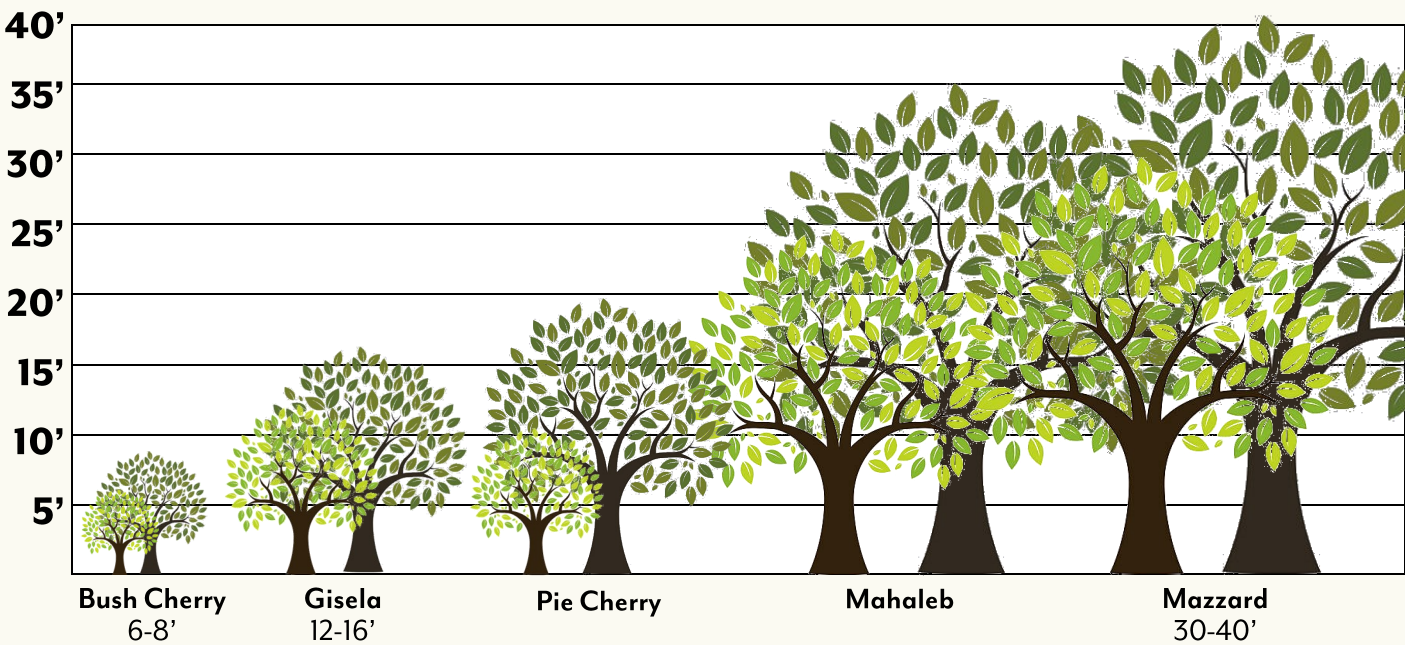
SWEET CHERRIES REQUIRING POLLINIZERS	
BING:	Black Tartarian, Corum, Lapins , Rainier, Royal Rainier, Sweetheart, Vandalay, Van
EARLY BURLAT:	Kristin, Van, Glacier, Stella, Tehranivee, Lambert, Black Gold , Sam
RAINIER & ROYAL RAINIER:	Bing, Black Tartarian, Corum, Lapins , Royal Ann , Sweetheart, Vandalay, Kristin, Van
ROYAL ANN:	Bing, Black Tartarian, Corum, Lapins , Rainier, Royal Rainier, Sweetheart, Vandalay, Van
KRISTIN:	Black Tartarian, Corum, Lapins , Rainier, Royal Rainier, Sweetheart, Vandalay, Van, Glacier, Stella, Tehranivee, Early Burlat
VAN:	Bing, Black Tartarian, Corum, Lapins , Rainier, Royal Ann, Royal Rainier, Sweetheart, Vandalay, Kristin, Glacier, Stella, Tehranivee, Early Burlat, Lambert

**Pie cherries are self-fertile but will not pollinate sweet cherries.*

ROOTSTOCKS & CARE

Cherries may be grafted onto different rootstocks to control size and achieve other goals, like fruiting at a younger age. Here is a comparison of sweet cherries on rootstocks we see with the average size of bush cherries and pie cherries. Note that not all varieties will be available on every rootstock.

Bush cherries and pie cherries tend to be smaller trees; check tags for expected sizes.



Cherry trees can get very large. Low branching and an open center can help make a more manageable tree. Get our *Pruning and Training Fruit Trees* handout from the Information Desk for more information. Cherries can be susceptible to infections when pruned during wet weather, so pruning in late spring and/or summer is advised. For more information on how to maintain cherry trees, pick up our *Cherry Tree Care Calendar* at the Information Desk.

Ideas for protecting your cherries from birds:

- Reflective scare tape
- Bird netting
- Predator decoy

