

PLUMS & PRUNES FOR 2026

There are two main types of plums: **Japanese** (*Prunus salicina*) and **European** (*Prunus domestica*).

Japanese varieties are usually earlier fruiting, fleshier, softer, and juicier. Most Japanese varieties require a pollinizer.

European plums tend to bloom and ripen later and are usually self-fruitful. Often they are sweeter than Japanese plums. European varieties containing more natural sugar make for better drying; these are called “prunes” or “prune plums.”

Plums, like cherries and other stone fruits, should be pruned in dry weather – summer, in our climate – to avoid bacterial and fungal infection. An open center form allows maximum air flow, sun exposure, and easiest access for harvest.



EUROPEAN PLUMS

BROOKS	Semi self-fertile. Large, purplish-black prune type. The yellow flesh is sweet and excellent for eating, canning and drying. Hybridized in Oregon.
FRENCH PETITE	Self-fertile. Small-medium, oval prune with violet-purple skin. The flesh is greenish-yellow, nearly freestone with a mild, sugary flavor. Best for dessert and canning.
GREEN GAGE	Self-fertile. Classic old plum variety, also known as Reine Claude. Small-med, oval, yellow-green fruit. Flesh is juicy, smooth textured with sought-after rich flavor.
IMPERIAL EPINEUSE	Semi self-fertile. Famously delicious red-purple mottled fruit with sweet firm amber flesh; sets the standard for drying.
ITALIAN/EARLY ITALIAN	Self-fertile. Med-large oval prune with purplish-black skin. Freestone flesh is yellow-green, turning red when cooked. Rich, sweet flavor. Good for canning and drying. Early Italian ripens 2-3 weeks earlier.
MIRABELLE DE METZ	Heirloom French cultivar from 1675, with small-stoned, freestone, carmine freckled, yellow fruits. Heavy producer, exquisitely sweet, full bodied flavor. Better crops with a pollinizer.
STANLEY	Self-fertile. Medium to large, dark blue fruit. Firm, tender freestone flesh.
YELLOW EGG	Semi self-fertile. Large, golden yellow fruit is firm and juicy, semi-freestone. Tart flavor until fully ripe. Good for fresh use and canning.

JAPANESE PLUMS

BEAUTY	Self fertile. Med-size, red-purple fruit with amber flesh has richest flavor. Heavy bearer, ripens June-August.
BURBANK	Large, purple-red fruit with sweet, meaty, clingstone, amber flesh. Best harvested before fully ripe. Excellent flavor. Good fresh or canned. Ripens mid-July.
BURGUNDY	Self-fertile. Bright red, med-size fruit with sweet, mellow, red flesh. Very productive, semi-freestone, good pollinizer for other trees.
CATALINA	Big, black-skinned fruit with creamy yellow flesh has excellent flavor. Firm, juicy, and sweet, one of the best for fresh eating. Low acid, little tartness.
ELEPHANT HEART	Large, heart-shaped fruit with bronze-green skin, reddish-purple when completely ripe. The freestone flesh is juicy, blood-red with a rich, distinctive flavor. Good all purpose. Pollinate with Beauty or Santa Rosa.
HOLLYWOOD	Large red fruit that is good for eating fresh and making jellies. Lovely pink flowers and purple leaves. Pollinate with Beauty, Stanley, or Methley.
METHLEY	Self-fertile. Heat tolerant, clingstone variety looks good year-round. Heavy bearer, good disease resistance, with fragrant white flowers in spring followed by sweet, purple-red fruits.
SANTA ROSA/ SANTA ROSA WEEPING	Self-fertile. Very large, oval fruit with purplish-red skin. Clingstone, purplish flesh with delicious flavor. Great fresh or canned. Weeping variety is similar to regular Santa Rosa but with lovely, weeping habit and slightly later to bloom and ripen.
SATSUMA	Semi self-fertile. Blood red, med-large, nearly spherical fruit. Meaty, juicy, delicious fruit is red to the center with small pit. Great for fresh eating, cooking, canning, and preserves. Semi-self-fruitful but better with a pollinator.
SHIRO	Semi self-fertile. Medium to large, round, yellow fruit. Juicy, yellow, clingstone flesh. Has a mild, sweet flavor. Excellent for cooking, canning and desserts. Tree is low growing, very hardy and very prolific.

OTHERS

BLUE DAMSON	Self-fruitful. Small, blue-black, tart plum prized for jams, jellies, and chutney. Cold hardy, bears heavily. Ripens late August through September. Self-fruitful, better with a European plum for pollen.
NADIA	A cherry-plum hybrid bred in Australia. The fruit has the size and keeping qualities of a plum with the internal color and juiciness of a dark cherry. Flavor is intense and sweet, reminiscent of both cherry and plum. Pollinize with a Japanese plum like Santa Rosa.
PERSIAN GREEN	Self-fruitful. From the mountains of Iran, these small plums are traditionally eaten in mid-spring while still green, sour, and crunchy. Allowed to ripen, they become small, sweet, yellow plums.
TOKA	American-Japanese hybrid. Ornamental tree with white, sweetly scented flowers followed by colorful, red-amber fruits with delicious, yellow flesh. Called “bubblegum plum” for the sweet candy flavor and scent. Excellent pollinizer for other Japanese plums.