

The 10 Fastest Growing Fruit Trees To Plant In Your Backyard Orchard



Get Fruit Faster When You Plant These Trees

You want fruit and you want it NOW!

There are a few things you can do to ensure that you don't have to wait 5 or more years to get fruit from your trees.

- First, choose trees that are hardy for your zone
- Second, choose varieties that grow and produce quickly. In the nursery world, they are called precocious varieties.

Now I know you want to get right to the type of trees. But there are a few other things you should do to ensure that you succeed at this orchard thing.

You don't want to invest in trees that are fabulous for your area and grow quickly, only to fail by not having the full picture of how to take care of them.

At Winter Cove Farm we learned the hard way. When we first started our orchard many years ago, we didn't know all the secrets that professional nurseries do.

And no one seemed to want to help us with figuring it out. Don't worry, we will give you an overview here and are available to assist with your trees year-round.

(if you'd rather just see the 10 Fastest Growing Trees, skip to page 3, you can always come back)

- First comes the plan. Pick the area you want to put your trees in and make sure that they will not be sitting in a low spot. Trees are susceptible to frost, especially when blooming. Pick the high area in your lawn and prepare an area there.
- To prepare, remove at least a 3 foot diameter circle by removing the sod from the area. This will help the tree to not compete with grasses in its first few years.
- **A well-prepared hole is the best investment you can make.**
- Don't worry about fertilizers, compost or any special additives. Trees can get what they need from the soil. If you want to add any compost, rock dust or other additives, put them on the top of the soil after backfilling the hole. The water will help bring down nutrients the trees need in a natural way.
- After planting your trees, use a good wood mulch over the entire area you dug up. You don't need special mulch! Definitely don't use dyed (red cedar mulch) or rubber mulches. If you don't have a mulch near

you, use litter from the forest floor. A good armful of leaves will provide lots of beneficial fungi and bacteria which is really a good thing.

Trees will send down deep roots looking for water. A single watering, once a week of 2.5 gallons per tree will simulate rain for them.

Unless you're in a drought, don't over water and definitely don't drip irrigate. This is very important. If you drip irrigate, they will grow mainly surface roots and you will need to continue to irrigate them throughout their lives.

Buying your trees bare root will get your trees out to a good start.

Potted trees are watered and fertilized at least weekly, often daily. Once started that way, they have a hard time acclimating to natural soil.

Bare root trees come straight from soil and go right back into it.

That sums up the basics that you need to know to start growing a healthy fruit tree. Now onto the Fast Growers list...

Apples

Liberty Apple Tree: A lovely, bright red apple that is wonderful right off the tree and keeps until January. The most disease resistant apple ever grown! Hardy, vigorous and very precocious. Most people see apples by the third year. Hardy to -40 F.

Nova Mac Apple Tree: Most of us are familiar with Macintosh apples, this tastes like a Mac without the disease problems. Perfect for the backyard orchard. See apples in year three with this tree! Hardy to -40 F.

Honeycrisp Apple Tree: One of the most popular varieties for the backyard orchard. You're lucky you live in a cold climate for this apple alone. If you haven't tasted one, they're crisp, fresh, and sweet. A favorite across the US.

Sweet Cherries

(Cherries need two varieties planted near each other to produce fruit)

White Gold Cherry Tree: This yellow cherry is blushed with pink. Very sweet and will pollinate itself and most every other sweet cherry. Hardy to -35 F.

Kristin Cherry Tree: Very hardy sweet cherry that produces fruit by it's third year. Bright red and perfectly cherry sweet! Hardy to -40 F.

Sour Cherries

Carmin Gold Sour Cherry Tree: Incredible cold hardiness combines with a pop it in your mouth flavor or sweet touched with sour makes this our top choice for cold hardy cherries. It also produces within 2 years of planting and you only need one to get fruit!

Peaches

Encore Peach Tree: Excellent cold hardy variety with medium to large sized fruit, good for fresh eating and canning.

Pears

(Pears need two varieties planted near each other to produce fruit)

YaLi Pear Tree: An Asian pear that looks European and will knock your socks off in flavor. We eat bushels of these every year. Hardy to -25 F. This is a pear that should fruit by year 3.

Kieffer Pear Tree: Lovely classic pear with a touch of red on it when ripe. Excellent fresh off the tree and holds its shape for cooking or canning. Stores for months. Hardy to -40 F. The fastest producing European pear we've found. Should have fruit by year 4 where most pears can take 7 or more years to bear.

Flemish Beauty Pear Tree: Roundish pear with flesh that becomes melting and tender when kept at room temperature for a couple weeks after harvest. Hardy, strong growing, vigorous, and productive tree that is a good pollinator for other pears. Hardy to -45 F.

There are lots more varieties out there, but these 10 have proven to bear quickly, grow fast and not die even in cold areas.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at Contact@WinterCoveFarm.com or give a call at 207-478-8759.

We wish you the best in growing your fruit trees. Visit us at WinterCoveFarm.com to learn more about caring for your trees naturally.

Brian & Jill Mello
Winter Cove Farm
Winterport, Maine