

# SMALL- AND TREE-FRUIT CULTIVARS

Fruit Gardens



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Fruit crops and cultivars should be carefully chosen. They should be adapted to location and growing conditions. Some small fruit plants, such as strawberries, may be replanted in three or four years, but tree fruits such as apples and pears may remain productive for 25 to 30 years. The selection should be deliberate rather than on impulse.

Many fruit cultivars, which are also called varieties, are available from various nurseries. The cultivars listed in this publication have been tested in research projects or have been observed successfully growing and producing in Kansas or surrounding states. Some cultivars available from nurseries are not listed because of inadequate information about their performance in Kansas or surrounding states.

Pollination requirements vary among fruit crops. Some are self-fruitful (self-pollinated) and provide their own pollen. Others must be pollinated from another cultivar. Pollen from a different cultivar will sometimes increase fruit set on a self-fruitful variety. Table 1 lists pollination requirements for various fruit crops.

Honeybees and wild bees are the most important pollinating insects for fruit crops. Sevin and most organophosphate insecticides are toxic to bees, so do not spray fruit plants during bloom. The most effective range for bees to pollinate flowers is about 100 feet. When weather conditions are warm and calm, bees will travel greater distances. If cultivars that are mutually pollinating are planted at greater distances, incomplete pollination is more likely to occur, especially in windy, cold and wet weather conditions. Fruit plantings in neighbors' yards can provide a pollen source. They may include trees of the same kind of fruit, but of a different cultivar.

**Table 1. Pollination requirements for fruit crops.**

Fruit Crop	Self-Fruitful
<b>Small Fruits</b>	
Blackberry	Yes
Blueberry	Two varieties desirable
Currant	Yes
Elderberry	No
Gooseberry	Yes
Grape	Yes
Raspberry	Yes
Strawberry	Yes
<b>Tree Fruits</b>	
Apple	No*
Apricot	Yes
Cherry (tart)	Yes
Cherry (sweet)	No*
Nectarine	Yes
Peach	Yes
Pear	No*
Plum (European)	Yes*
Plum (Japanese)	No*

\*There are exceptions with individual cultivars.

**Table 2. Small fruits.**

Variety	Description
<b>Blackberries</b>	
<i>Semi-erect</i>	
Black Satin	Thornless, semi-cold hardy, canes require support. Large, firm, good quality fruit. Highly productive, late-season ripening, vigorous plant.
Chester	Trailing to semi-erect thornless, semi-cold hardy, canes require support. Medium, firm, good quality fruit. Highly productive, mid-season ripening, vigorous plant.

Variety	Description
Hull	Thornless, semi-cold hardy, canes require support. Large, good quality fruit. Highly productive, mid- to late-season ripening, vigorous plant.
<i>Erect</i>	
Apache	Thornless, cold-hardy, canes do not require support. Medium, firm, flavorful fruit. Very productive and vigorous. Ripens five days before Shawnee.
Arapaho	Thornless, cold-hardy, canes do not require support. Medium-size, flavorful fruit. Ripening begins with Shawnee. Moderately productive, vigorous plant.
Navaho	Thornless, cold hardy, canes do not require support. Medium, firm, flavorful fruit. Ripens one week after Shawnee and continues two weeks later, moderately productive, low vigor.
Ouachita	Thornless, cold-hardy, erect, canes do not require support. Medium-size, flavorful fruit. Very productive and vigorous. Ripening between Arapaho and Navajo.
Shawnee	Thorny, cold-hardy, erect, canes do not require support. Medium-large, firm fruit. Highly productive; ripens over a long period of time, vigorous plant.

## Blueberries

### *High-bush*

Bluecrop	Vigorous, erect, open, very productive shrub with loose clusters. Large, light blue, flavorful, aromatic, firm, resistant to cracking fruit with small scar.
Bluejay	Vigorous, erect, open, productive shrub with small, tight clusters. Berries are large, light blue, firm, resistant to cracking with small-medium scar. Excellent flavor and aroma. Performs well in hot climates.
Blueray	Vigorous, erect, open, productive shrub with small, tight clusters. Berries are large, light blue, firm, resistant to cracking with small-medium scar. Excellent flavor and aroma. Performs well in hot climates.
Duke	Vigorous, erect, open, consistently productive. Medium, flavorful, light blue, firm fruit with small scar. More aromatic after storage.
Patriot	Low-growing, spreading bush to about 4 feet. Adaptable to many soil types. High, consistent production. Berries are large, flavorful and dark blue.

## Currant

Red Lake	Vigorous plant, productive and cold hardy. Red, tart, thick-skinned berries.
Wilder	Cold hardy, vigorous and long-lived. Dark red, distinctive flavor, tart berries.

## Elderberries

### *Purplish-black fruit, white flower*

Johns	Tall, vigorous and productive with large fruit and clusters. High ornamental value.
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Variety	Description
Nova	Moderately vigorous, productive plant. Medium-sized clusters and fruit, good flavor. Early production.
York	Vigorous plant (about 12 feet tall and wide), good production. Large berries and clusters. Fruit matures later than Adams. Fruit set is better when more than one cultivar is grown.

## Gooseberries

Pixwell	Moderately vigorous, productive plant. Large red fruit.
Welcome	Vigorous, productive plant. Greenish-yellow with pink blush fruit.

## Grapes

### *American Varieties (Vitis labrusca)*

Beta	Blue fruit; juice and jelly; small-size fruit. Vigorous and hardy.
Catawba	Red; table, juice and wine; large fruit; vigorous and cold hardy.
Concord	Blue-black fruit, the quality standard for juice, jam, and jelly; medium clusters of medium to large berries. Greatest problem in Kansas is uneven ripening during hot summers or heavy crop loads. Cold hardy.
Cynthiana	Black fruit; excellent red wine; medium to small clusters of small grapes; moderate vigor, moderately productive, very disease resistant and good cold hardiness.
Fredonia	Blue; extra-large fruit and thick skin; juicy and good quality; vigorous and cold hardy.
Mars	Blue; seedless table grape; medium-size clusters with large fruit; resistance to common grape diseases; vigorous and cold hardy.
Niagara	White; table and wine; large-size fruit with good flavor; vigorous and cold hardy.
Reliance	Red; seedless table grape; excellent raisins; ripens early mid-season; vigorous and winter-hardy.
Steuben	Blue fruit; table and wine; concord type; vigorous and cold hardy.
Venus	Blue-black; seedless table grape; large berries; early ripening; vines are vigorous, moderately cold hardy.

### *French-American Hybrids*

Aurore	White; table; vines are hardy and productive but susceptible to black rot and splitting at harvest.
Baco noir	Blue; wine; clusters are large with small fruit; vines are vigorous and productive; moderately winter hardy.
Chancellor	Blue; wine use; good vigor, productive and moderate hardiness.
Foch	Blue; wine use; very vigorous and winter hardy.

Variety	Description
Seyval Blanc	Medium-size white-yellow berries in large clusters. Good wine; one of the better white grapes. French hybrids. Medium to high vigor; not very cold hardy.
Vidal blanc	Yellow-white fruit; large clusters of large berries; excellent wine; moderate cold hardiness.
Vignoles	Small to medium white-yellow berries in small clusters; very good wine; medium vigor and cold hardy; berries very susceptible to botrytis.

For more information see K-State Research and Extension Publication MF-635 *Grapes*.

### Raspberries

#### *Red, ever-bearing primocane type*

Heritage	Vigorous, most widely planted red raspberry. Medium, firm, excellent quality fruit. Canes strong and upright; bear in the fall and spring.
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#### *Red, summer-bearing type*

Latham	Excellent cold hardy with a long bearing season, spring crop and medium yields. Mid-season berry, small to medium fruit, acceptable flavor.
Reveille	Medium to large, good flavored fruit. Vigorous, high-yielding plants.
Titan	Good cold hardy, high yield. Very large, mild-flavored, early ripening berry. Erect canes are nearly thornless.

#### *Black*

Allen	Intermediate cold hardy, vigorous plant with attractive fruit. Fruit size comparable to Jewell. Not fully tested in Kansas.
Bristol	Excellent cold hardy, vigorous, most widely grown. High yield. Early ripening, medium, excellent quality fruit.
Jewell	Excellent cold hardy, large, glossy fruit. Very productive and vigorous plant.

#### *Yellow*

Fall Gold	Moderate cold hardy. Soft, medium to large, sweet, flavorful, amber fruit. Primocane. Ripens with Heritage in the fall.
Goldie	Fruiting and productivity similar to Heritage. Berries are medium, round, firm, deep yellow with pink blush. Prone to sun bleaching. Primocane. Multiple uses.

#### *Purple*

Brandywine	Good cold hardy, good quality, firm, round, tart, red fruit. Productive, vigorous plant that will not spread.
Royalty	Good cold hardy, cone-shaped berry, very soft, sweeter than Brandywine, productive and vigorous plant, late ripening.

### Strawberries

The performance of a strawberry cultivar is influenced by the local environment. Varieties grown in northeast Kansas may not produce as well in other areas. New cultivars should be tested locally before large numbers of plants are ordered. Cultivars are listed in the table on page 5. For growing tips see K-State Research and Extension publication MF-598, *Strawberries*.

**Table 3. Tree fruits.**

Variety	Description
<b>Apples</b>	
<i>Summer</i>	
Gala	Sweet, crisp and firm, but bruises easily. Fruit is round and has orange blush on yellow. Can be stored up to three months. Medium-sized tree. Blooms late.
Lodi	Yellow-green, mealy texture with white flesh. Harvest slightly immature to avoid bruises. Storage is not recommended. The medium to large fruit drop easily. Subject to fire blight and may bear biennially if not thinned.
Ozark Gold	Cream-colored fruit with a good flavor and semi-firm flesh that is similar to Golden Delicious with less russet. Should be cross pollinated. Bears annually but needs fruit thinning.
Prima	Firm flesh, white, mild, sub-acid, round, with 60 percent dark red blush on yellow. Can be stored for 60 days. Immune to scab and resistant to fire blight, cedar apple rust and mildew. May be biennial bearing without thinning.
Redfree	Harvest in late July. Jonathan-type, red, sweet-tart flavored fruit. Resistant to major apple diseases.
<i>Fall and winter</i>	
Empire	Flesh is firm, juicy, cream-colored and moderately sub-acid. The round, red fruit hangs well. Store up to six months. Tree bears annually and produces heavily.
Delicious	Flesh is yellow, coarse, crisp, sweet. Conic with five lobes at calyx end. Color depends on sport. Tree susceptible to apple scab. Upright growth requires special training.
Golden Delicious	Yellow, fine texture, sweet to mildly sub-acid. Versatile fruit comes in all sizes. Susceptible to bruising; surface russets easily except on some sports. Self-fruitful, good pollinator.
Granny Smith	Fruit is green, hard, crisp, juicy and tart. Will store six to seven months. Tree is annual bearing with viable pollen. Susceptible to fire blight and powdery mildew. Long growing season; matures in late October in southern Kansas.
Jonagold	Fruit has an attractive red blush over yellow background. Very good dessert fruit; good for processing. Cannot be pollinated by Golden Delicious.

Variety	Description
Jonathan	Flesh is white to cream in color, fine, sub-acid with a distinct flavor. Fruit is red and round. Coloring may be a problem except with better coloring sports. Three to four months storage. Trees may be biennial when overset and fruit will be smaller. Susceptible to fire blight, scab, cedar apple rust and powdery mildew.
Rome Beauty	White, firm, fine-textured flesh. Flavor is sub-acid to tart. Medium-sized, round fruit that is subject to some drops. Will store for six to seven months. Tree is annual bearing. Susceptible to fire blight and scab.
Winesap	Fruit is white, firm, coarse-textured and tart. Will store six to seven months. Trees are annual bearing and pollen sterile. Fruit is small unless trees are well-thinned.

### Crab Apples

#### *White flower, upright tree*

Dologo	Good for jelly. Early bloom. Red, medium fruit with medium vigor; very susceptible to scab.
Winter Gem	Fragrant flowers and abundant, dark red fruit. Very vigorous, upright growth tree with excellent scab resistance. Mid-season bloom.

#### *Pink flower, upright tree*

Pink Satin	Vigorous tree, mid-season bloom. Medium, dull red fruit. Susceptible to scab.
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#### *White flower, upright spreading tree*

Silver Moon	Late bloom, medium to small, dark red fruit. Vigorous tree. Good resistance to scab.
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### Apricots

Early bloom; flowers are frequently killed by spring frosts. Suggested cultivars are Moorpark, Golcot, Manchu and Superb. Some seedling trees may produce good quality fruit and bloom later than named cultivars.

### Cherries

#### *Tart*

Meteor	High-quality, small fruit. Tree is genetic dwarf. Hardy.
Montmorency	Bright red, tart fruit. Tree is productive.
North Star	Medium-quality fruit. Tree is genetic dwarf, hardy and resistant to cherry leaf spot.

#### *Sweet*

Black Tartarian	Large, bright-red, heart-shaped fruit. Needs pollinator.
Stella	Large, dark-red fruit; may crack with rain or high moisture. Self-fruitful; good pollen source.
Windsor	Dark-red, firm fruit. Trees large and vigorous. Needs pollinator.

Variety	Description
Yellow Glass	Fruit is yellow with pink blush. Needs pollinator. Hardest of sweet cherries.
<b>Nectarines</b>	
Fantasia	Attractive fruit with good flavor. Produced well in southern Kansas trials.
Red Gold	Fruit size, flavor and yield good in trials. Fruit may be unattractive due to infection on the skin.
<b>Peaches</b>	
Cresthaven	Ripens 10 days after Harrow Beauty with firm, large fruit. Moderately susceptible to bacterial spot. Fruit lacks sufficient color to compete against other cultivars
Early Redhaven	Fruit matures in early July in south central Kansas. Semi-clingstone. Fruit quality is similar to Redhaven.
Glohaven	Yellow, non-browning, flavorful flesh. Skin has crimson blush. High-quality peach.
Harken	Yellow flesh. Freestone. Good quality fruit and one of the hardest peach varieties. Will begin ripening about the same time as Redhaven.
Intrepid	Excellent hardiness and frost tolerance. May produce a crop after exposure to subfreezing temperatures at 50% bloom. Yellow flesh. Fruit set is heavy and will require thinning in years where frost does not thin crop naturally. Good quality fruit.
Redhaven	Yellow flesh. Freestone. Good quality fruit. Fairly hardy and frost-tolerant. Fruit set is very heavy and usually needs to be thinned so remaining fruit will develop larger size.
Redskin	Yellow flesh. Freestone and good quality fruit. Ripens in late August, but is hardier and more resistant to bacterial leaf spot.
Reliance	Excellent hardiness and fair frost tolerance. Self-fruitful, ripens in late July. Yellow freestone and good fruit size. Fair quality.
<b>Pears</b>	
Asian	Trials of this fruit were planted in Kansas State University research tests in Sedgwick County. Some selections very susceptible to disease. Cross-pollination is advised.
Duchess	Good for fresh use, cooking and preserving. Skin is yellow with red blush. Self-pollinated; good for pollinating other varieties. Fire blight resistant.
Seckel	Small, brownish-yellow fruit. Sugar pear best for cooking and pre-serving. Resistant to fire blight.
Moonglow	Good for fresh eating, cooking. Soft, white, juicy flesh. Resistant to fire blight.
Magness	Good fresh and canned. Yellow-gold, slightly russeted fruit. Resistant to fire blight.

Variety	Description
Nitaka	Fair to good flavored, large pear. Harvest in mid-August. Two- to three-months storage life. Reddish-brown, thick, russeted skin.
Shinko	Flesh is sweet, crisp and juicy. Fruit is round with russeted skin. Four- to six-month storage life. Fruit thinning may be necessary. Disease resistant.
<b>Plums</b>	
<i>European</i>	Oval shaped, generally blue. High sugar content allows drying the fruit. Most are self-fruitful.
Bluefre	Blue skin and greenish-yellow flesh. Freestone. Early bearing. Most productive when planted with a pollinator.
Damson	Blue skin with dark, amber flesh. Good for preserving. Self-pollinating.
Stanley	Blue-purple skin and gold-colored flesh. Freestone. Self-fruitful.
<i>Japanese</i>	Blooms early; flowers are frequently damaged by spring frosts. Usually round and red. Requires another Japanese plum for a pollinator.
Methley	Reddish-purple skin and golden-yellow flesh. Good fresh or canned. Needs pollinator.

Variety	Description
Ozark Premier	Red skin and flesh. Very good fresh and canned. Needs pollinator.
Red Heart	Medium size, semi-freestone. Reddish-purple with red flesh. Good to pollinate other varieties.
<i>Japanese-American hybrid</i>	
Shiro	Ripens early. Yellow, round, medium-large fruit.

### Nurseries

This list of nurseries is not an endorsement by K-State Research and Extension, nor is it exhaustive. Fruit trees and small fruit shrubs and plants may be ordered from other nurseries not included in this list.

[www.boyernurseries.com/www.crfg.org/nurlist.html](http://www.boyernurseries.com/www.crfg.org/nurlist.html)  
[www.fruit.cornell.edu/Berries/nurseries/nurseries.html](http://www.fruit.cornell.edu/Berries/nurseries/nurseries.html)  
[www.henryleuthardtseries.com/](http://www.henryleuthardtseries.com/)  
[www.raintreenursery.com/](http://www.raintreenursery.com/)  
[www.sln.potsdam.ny.us/](http://www.sln.potsdam.ny.us/)  
[www.starkbros.com/index.jsp](http://www.starkbros.com/index.jsp)  
[www.virginiafruit.ento.vt.edu/VAFS-other.html](http://www.virginiafruit.ento.vt.edu/VAFS-other.html)

**Table 1. Strawberry cultivars for Kansas and surrounding states**

Cultivar	Harvest <sup>2</sup>	Season	Size	Flavor	Freezing Quality
<i>June-bearing</i>					
Allstar	9	Mid	Large	Good	Good
Cavendish	6	Early Mid	Very Large	Very Good	Very Good
Earliglow	0	Early	Medium	Excellent	Very Good
Guardian	9	Mid	Very Large	Good	Good
Honeoye	6	Early Mid	Large	Good	Excellent
Jewel	12	Late Mid	Large	Very Good	Excellent
Lateglow	9	Mid	Very Large	Very Good	Very Good
Latestar	12	Late Mid	Medium Large	Good	Good
Northeastern	0	Early	Large	Very Good	Very Good
Red Chief	7	Early Mid	Medium	Good	Excellent
Sparkle	12	Late Mid	Medium	Excellent	Excellent
<i>Everbearing</i>					
Tribute			Medium Large	Very Good	Good
Tristar			Medium Large	Very Good	Good

<sup>2</sup>number of days after Earliglow

## Harvest Periods for Kansas Fruits

Fruit Crops	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Strawberries		■	■						
Raspberries			■	■		■	■		
Cherries (tart)			■	■					
Blackberries				■	■	■			
Peaches, Nectarines				■	■	■			
Plums, Prunes				■	■	■			
Grapes				■	■	■			
Pears					■	■			

### Apples

Summer-Lodi			■						
Gala					■				
Prima, Ozark Gold					■	■			
Jonathan						■			
Empire Jonagold						■			
Delicious, Golden Delicious						■			
Rome Beauty, Winesap							■		
Granny Smith							■		

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## Map of Your Orchard

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Brand names appearing in this publication are for product identification purposes only. No endorsement is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products not mentioned.

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