

**FRUIT  
VARIETIES  
*for*  
MICHIGAN**

By STAFF MEMBERS  
of the  
DEPARTMENT OF HORTICULTURE



**MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY  
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## FRUIT VARIETIES FOR MICHIGAN

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Information on the various fruits was prepared by the following members of the Department of Horticulture:

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This folder is intended as a guide in the selection of fruit varieties for commercial plantings. Varieties listed have been grown and tested over a period of years and are considered best adapted and most reliable for planting in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan. For the Upper Peninsula, a special list of varieties may be secured from the Upper Peninsula Experiment Station, Chatham, Mich.

The variety names are arranged according to the season that the fruit begins to ripen or when it is in good condition for use after harvest.

Two or more varieties each of apples, pears, Japanese plums, European plums, and sweet cherries should be planted to insure satisfactory pollination and setting of fruit.

### APPLE

Consumers are showing a decided preference for red apples, and to meet this trend, it is suggested that Michigan growers plant the more highly-colored red sports instead of the original less-colored, striped varieties. These should prove more popular and profitable for the fresh fruit trade. To the processor, red color is of little or no importance, or may even be undesirable for certain processed products. Keep in mind that the red sports may be different from the original variety or each other in characteristics other than skin color. Avoid harvesting red sports prematurely because of early color development.

McINTOSH—Attractive, red-striped, large, flesh white, tender, juicy, aromatic, and of high eating quality; makes good sauce; but is susceptible to scab, premature dropping and bruising. Trees bear young and annually. Fruit does not always color well in the southwestern fruit area. October to March.

**JONATHAN**—Mostly red, medium-sized, flesh firm, subacid flavor, good quality. A very productive, early and regular bearer, which does best in lower half of southern peninsula. Fruit subject to Jonathan spot, storage scald. Trees susceptible to fire blight. Requires blossom or fruit thinning to insure good size. November to January.

**DELICIOUS**—Striped or nearly solid red, large, conical, flesh firm, mild sweet flavor, and of good dessert quality. Loses flavor and firmness if improperly stored or held too long in storage. May not set good crop in some seasons. November to March.

**GOLDEN DELICIOUS**—Yellow, large, long-ovate; flesh firm, mild in flavor and high in dessert quality. Fruit subject to russeting by certain spray materials, and tend to shrivel in storage. Tree tends to be small, bear early and biennially. December to February.

**NORTHERN SPY**—Striped red, large fruit with excellent flavor and quality. Good general purpose variety. Bruises easily. Large fruits often develop bitter-pit. Tree frequently does not bear until 12 to 15 years old, and tends to bear biennially. November to March.

**ROME BEAUTY**—Bright solid red, very attractive, large and firm. Not a dessert variety, but acceptable for baking and other culinary uses. Tree bears young and annually. Does best in lower half of southern peninsula. December to March.

**IDARED**—A new variety of merit. Fruit nearly solid red, faintly striped, large, firm; with smooth finish, white flesh with traces of pink. Tender, juicy, and has good dessert and cooking quality. Keeps exceptionally well in common and refrigerated storages. Tree bears young, annually, and heavily. November to May.

### **For Trial and Limited Planting:**

**FENTON (Beacon)**—Medium dark red, faintly striped, medium to large, firm, tough skin, and handles well. Is a good dessert and cooking apple. Ripens unevenly and requires about four pickings, which can be reduced to two by using “stop-drop” sprays. First

fruits ripen in late August. Will keep in storage about 6 weeks. Late August through September.

### **For Commercial Processing:**

Apple varieties grown in Michigan commercial orchards can be classified according to their particular usage. Some are primarily dessert varieties; others are good for dessert, home cooking, and for commercial processing; while still others are suited primarily for commercial processing. The latter outlet is an important one for the Michigan grower, since it provides an additional market for varieties adapted for this purpose. The varieties for which the processors have shown a preference, a number of which are very questionable for new plantings, include the following:

Northern Spy	Rome Beauty
Golden Delicious	Stark
Rhode Island Greening	Wagener
Baldwin	Winter Banana
Stayman	Jonathan
Grimes Golden	

### **CRAB APPLE**

**HYSLOP**—Dark purplish red and large. Has good quality, and is excellent for home jellies and pickling, and for commercial pickling. Susceptible to fire blight. September.

### **PEAR**

**BARTLETT**—Yellow, faint blush, large. Has good quality, and excellent for commercial canning. Tree very productive, annual bearing, but susceptible to fire blight. Early September.

**BOSC**—Attractive bronze-russet, large, with long tapering neck, and of high dessert quality. Excellent pollinizer for Bartlett. Susceptible to fire blight. October to December.

KIEFFER—Yellow with dull red blush, oval, narrowing at both ends. Flesh granular and coarse, and of poor dessert quality. Not well adapted to the northern part of the lower peninsula. Fairly resistant to fire blight. Should be planted only for processing market. October to January.

## PEACH

### Freestone Varieties for Commercial Planting:

REDHAVEN<sup>1</sup>—Matures about 30 days before Elberta. Introduced in 1940, this variety has become the most popular of its season in the United States. Tree vigorous, productive, and above average in hardiness. Heavy sets of fruit usually occur, and thorough and early thinning is required to obtain fruits of good size. Fruit brilliant red. Flesh firm, fine-grained, and non-browning. Excellent for fresh use and freezing. Partial clinginess restricts the value of this variety for commercial processing.

FAIRHAVEN<sup>1</sup>—Matures about 20 days before Elberta. The tree is vigorous, productive, and above average in hardiness. Fruit medium in size and golden with a bright red cheek. Attractive, but does not have as much color as the fresh market now prefers. Very good for freezing. Partial clinginess in some seasons may restrict its value for commercial processing. However, partial clinginess is a problem in all early maturing peaches in some seasons.

HALEHAVEN<sup>1</sup>—Matures about 14 days before Elberta. Introduced in 1932, Halehaven soon became a standard variety for its season. Tree excellent, being vigorous and dependably productive. Fruit medium-large, with an attractive combination of red and golden color if allowed to stay on the tree until nearly ripe. However, the color is often rather dull if picked when hard-ripe. Flavor is excellent, both fresh and canned, but the flesh browns on exposure to air. The excellent tree and dependable productivity of Halehaven should insure its place as an important variety for many years, especially for local markets.

<sup>1</sup>Developed and introduced by Michigan State University.

KALHAVEN<sup>1</sup>—Matures about 4 days before Elberta. It is steadily increasing in favor in southwestern Michigan because it matures part of its crop just before Elberta, its excellent shipping quality, and because of its popularity for commercial freezing. Tree is large, vigorous, productive, and considerably hardier in bud than Elberta. Fruits usually set heavily and should be well thinned. When mature, fruit normally medium to large in size and color much like J. H. Hale, being mostly bright golden with a bright red blush.

ELBERTA—This splendid old variety has long been "Queen of Peaches," but her crown is slipping considerably. Lack of red color, which is now so strongly in demand on the fresh market, is probably the chief factor in the loss of popularity of Elberta. Its comparatively late ripening season has also been a factor in its decline outside of the southwestern part of the state. Probably the best peach variety for commercial canning and is fairly good for freezing.

### Freestone Varieties Suggested for Trial on a Limited Basis:

SUNHAVEN<sup>1</sup>—Matures about 40 days before Elberta. Since it was introduced in 1955, not too much is known about it in commercial production. Strong, hardy, productive tree. Fruit has the brilliant red coloring of Redhaven, is large and has bright yellow flesh of good texture and flavor. A partial cling until fully ripe. Recommended as a very early variety for fresh market.

RICHHAVEN<sup>1</sup>—Matures about 17 days before Elberta. Tree is medium-large, productive, and moderately hardy. Fruit large, yellow-fleshed, freestone, mostly bright red, and superior in color and flesh characteristics to Halehaven. Ships and processes well. Because it was only recently introduced (1955), information about the behavior of this variety in commercial orchards is limited.

REDSKIN—Matures about with Elberta, but has much more red color. Tree vigorous and productive. Blossoms open very early, which increases the danger of injury from spring frosts. Not much is known about

its winter hardiness in Michigan. Fruit inclined to be medium-small unless very well thinned. Yellow flesh of excellent quality. Satisfactory for canning and freezing.

### **Clingstone Varieties for Processing:**

**AMBERGEM**—Matures about 10 days before Elberta. A firm-textured clingstone recommended only for commercial canning. Is the only clingstone variety at present recommended for growing in Michigan. Should not be grown except under a marketing agreement with commercial processors.

### **Cold Resistant Varieties**

**Recommended Only for Small Local Plantings Where Great Bud Hardiness is Needed to Obtain Moderately Good Production:**

**GOLDEN JUBILEE**—Matures about 24 days before Elberta. Has lost favor commercially because of softness and lack of red color. Tree large, productive, and considerably above average in bud hardiness. Fruit is of good flavor and excellent for canning and freezing.

**ROCHESTER**—Matures about 22 days before Elberta. Tree productive and far above average in hardiness. Fruit small, dark red and rather fuzzy, but excellent in flavor. Tree must be well pruned and heavily thinned to obtain fruit of medium size.

**SOUTH HAVEN**—Matures about 17 days before Elberta. An important old variety that has been displaced by Halehaven. However, it has unusual bud hardiness. Fruit lacks red color but is of good quality. Very good for fresh use.

## **CHERRY**

**Sour Cherry** (red tart)—Sour cherries are self-fruitful, do not require cross-pollination and can be planted in solid blocks of one variety.

**MONTMORENCY**—The only variety suggested for planting in Michigan. Fruit large, medium red, tart,

with firm flesh. Tree medium to large, vigorous, spreading, hardy and productive. Ripening season in Michigan is from mid- to late-July.

**Sweet Cherry**—All sweet cherry varieties suggested for planting in Michigan are self-unfruitful and cross-pollination must be provided. It is usually best to plant at least three of the following varieties together:

**BLACK TARTARIAN**—Ripens early (late June), is dark purple black, medium to small size, soft flesh, thin skin, and very good in eating quality. Not good for shipping or processing, but excellent as pollinizer for other varieties, and for local consumption. Tree fairly hardy, vigorous, fairly large, becomes much branched and spreading, usually with narrow and weak crotches.

**SCHMIDT**—Large, black, flesh very firm, of excellent quality, and ships well. Not greatly subject to cracking. Best fresh market shipping variety for Michigan. Midseason to medium-late variety, ripens in early July. Tree large, vigorous, upright, spreading and fairly productive. May be distinguished by its very large oblong leaves.

**NAPOLEON** (Royal Ann)—Yellow with pink to bright red cheek, large, very firm-fleshed, good quality, but subject to cracking. Best brining variety, but not a good shipper. Most commonly grown light-colored sweet cherry. Ripens in early July. Tree very large, vigorous, hardy, and very productive. Branches are usually wide-angled with strong crotches.

**WINDSOR**—Dark purplish red, nearly black, flesh firm, crisp, sweet, of excellent quality. Ripens late (mid-July). Subject to cracking when fully ripe. Tree large and vigorous, upright, spreading, quite hardy and very productive. Is most important sweet cherry variety in Michigan.

### **For Trial Only:**

**HEDELINGEN**—Black cherry of Lambert type, large and attractive. Flesh firm, sweet and of excellent quality. More resistant to cracking than Windsor or Schmidt. Ripens late (just ahead of Windsor). Tree large, upright-spreading, quite hardy and very productive.

## PLUMS

**STANLEY**—A prune type, excellent for fresh market, and the best variety of this type for commercial canning. Tree usually healthy, vigorous and productive. Fruit large, dark blue, with thick bloom and greenish yellow flesh of fine quality. The stone is free. Matures in southwestern Michigan about September 15.

Stanley will usually set a good crop without cross-pollination. However, it would be good insurance to have a few trees of another European-type variety planted among the Stanley trees to serve as pollinizers. Some common varieties of this type are Bradshaw, German Prune and Italian Prune.

## STRAWBERRY

**PREMIER (Howard 17)**—Premier, for many years the leading variety of Michigan, is second in importance only to Robinson. Early, with a long fruiting season. Good stocks are vigorous and make runners freely. Resistant to leaf diseases and highly tolerant to virus. Performs well in all Michigan strawberry districts. Resistant to frost damage in the spring. First berries are fairly large, wedge-shaped and sometimes split. Later berries are medium to small, long conic, and good in quality. Fruit too soft for distant shipping, but often sent from Michigan to fresh markets in nearby states. Medium red with red flesh, acceptable for commercial freezing.

**U.S.D.A. PREMIER (Virus-free-Premier)**—This is a distinct variety similar to standard Premier in size and shape of fruit, but differs from it in the following respects: (1) Leaves of "U.S.D.A. Premier" are lighter green; (2) plants smaller with many runners late in the season; (3) berries lighter red, more acid, softer, and less attractive in frozen packs when thawed. This variety has been inferior to Premier under Michigan conditions and is not recommended to Michigan growers.

**ROBINSON (Scarlet Beauty; Kardinal King; Neet)**—The leading variety in Michigan. Matures early mid-season a few days after Premier. Highly produc-

tive and adapted to all strawberry areas in Michigan. Plants medium to small but with prolific production of runners. Grows well on light soils where other varieties fail. Tolerant to viruses but highly susceptible to leaf blight and stem-end fruit rot. Berries very attractive, large, bright glossy red. Flesh generally pale red to white and berries sometimes hollow. Fairly firm and ships well, except during hot and wet seasons. Flavor and quality fair. Highly rated for fresh market but poor for freezing.

**SPARKLE (Paymaster)**—Best variety resistant to red stele root rot for Michigan. Healthy stocks of plants are productive, vigorous, and make runners freely. Susceptible to viruses. Berries late mid-season and medium to large; but their size runs down in late pickings. Fruit fairly firm, glossy, skin and flesh medium red, becoming quite dark when fully ripe. Mildly subacid, very good in quality for dessert and freezing.

**CATSKILL**—Catskill performs best in northern Michigan especially near Grand Traverse Bay. Virus-free stocks are productive, vigorous, and runner freely. Sensitive to viruses. Berries early midseason, large, fairly firm, bright red and good quality. Centers of primary berries may be white or hollow. Flesh of later berries is bright red and solid. Caps easily and most of the crop is frozen by processors. Fruit is too soft for distant shipping.

## RASPBERRY

### Black Raspberry

Commerical plantings of black raspberries should be limited to the area south of a line from Bay City across the state to Ludington, and to the coastal strip two to three miles inland northward along Lake Michigan into the Leelanau peninsula and the Traverse Bay area. Prospective growers of black raspberries should recognize the fact that our present varieties are all susceptible to a number of virus diseases which frequently reduce yields very seriously.

**LOGAN**—Because of its early ripening, this is the leading processing variety in Michigan. Has a short

season, and most of the fruit can be harvested in three pickings. Berries firm and of good quality. Canes only moderately vigorous and only fairly productive and cold-hardy.

**CUMBERLAND**—A mid-season variety which is widely grown in Michigan. Berries large, jet black, firm, and high in quality. Canes vigorous, productive, and quite cold-hardy.

## **Red Raspberry**

Although red raspberries are much harder than black raspberries and can be grown wherever other hardy fruits like apple can be grown, our present varieties are also very subject to the weakening and crop-reducing effects of virus diseases.

**EARLY RED**—An early season variety which ripens about 10 days ahead of Latham. Grows best in southern Michigan where it is vigorous and productive.

**LATHAM**—This late season variety still is the most popular and dependable red raspberry in Michigan. Berries large and fairly good in quality. Canes vigorous, productive, and quite cold-hardy.

## **Purple Raspberry**

Not recommended as a commercial fruit in Michigan. Although this berry has some qualities which make it desirable, the demand for it is very limited.

## **BLACKBERRY**

The geographic restrictions previously described for black raspberry also apply to the blackberry. There is a great need for a variety adapted to Michigan conditions and free from any tendency toward "sterility", which plagues our present varieties and results in incompletely developed, deformed berries.

**LUCRETIA**—Oldest and most widely grown trailing blackberry variety in Michigan. Plants vigorous and productive. Susceptible to anthracnose and leaf spot. Fruit matures in mid-July. Berries large, long, firm, jet black, and sweet when fully ripe. Quality good.

**ELDORADO**—Plants upright, vigorous, hardy, and productive. Resistant to orange rust. Fruit matures in late July, medium to large in size, firm, and excellent in quality. Unfortunately, in recent years, this variety has shown an increasing percentage of sterility.

## **GRAPE**

**CONCORD**—Standard American blue grape and the only variety suitable for making unfermented juice. Its round berries are above medium in size. Clusters medium in size and fairly compact. Skin thick and tough and the flesh fairly tough and juicy. Flavor aromatic, sweet, and foxy. Vine vigorous, cold-hardy, and productive.

**DELAWARE**—One of the best American varieties for wine and champagne. Berries are dull red and fairly small. Clusters small, very compact, and often shouldered. Skin thin but tough, while flesh is tender, juicy, sweet, and aromatic. Vine fairly vigorous, cold-hardy and productive.

## **CURRANT**

Because the currant is an alternate host for the white pine blister rust fungus, it cannot be grown in Michigan within 900 feet of commercial plantings of white pine and within 1,500 feet of nurseries where white pine is grown. A permit must be obtained from the Bureau of Plant Industry in Lansing, Mich., before the currant can be grown in certain counties (See map in Ext. Folder 120). The planting, possession or sale of black currants, the principal host of the white pine blister rust, is entirely prohibited in Michigan.

**WILDER**—Red-fruited variety ripening in mid-season. Vigorous grower and very productive. Fruit large and borne on large clusters. Its quality is good, and its flavor mild.

**RED LAKE**—This red-fruited variety ripens in late-season. More cold-hardy than Wilder and considered

best variety for most of Michigan. Vigorous and productive. Fruit large and of good quality.

## GOOSEBERRY

The restrictions as to where gooseberries can and cannot be grown in Michigan are the same as for currants, because it is a host for white pine blister rust.

**DOWNING**—Medium to small, pale green fruit. Grown mainly for commercial canning. Vigorous, cold-hardy, and very productive.

**POORMAN**—Berries are above medium in size and red when ripe. Good for fresh market and home use. Grows best on heavier type soils, where it is vigorous and moderately productive.

## BLUEBERRY

**EARLIBLUE**—Begins to ripen in early July in southwestern Michigan. New, promising variety. Vigorous, productive bush. Berry is medium-large and excellent in flavor. Ships and processes well. Picking scar only fair.

**RUBEL**—Begins to ripen about a week after Berkeley. One of the first cultivated varieties introduced. Bush vigorous and productive. Berries excellent in every way except a little small. This variety is still planted to some extent, but has been mostly replaced by Jersey.

**JERSEY**—Ripens about with Rubel. Leading variety in Michigan at present. Excellent in practically every way, but has been susceptible to mildew in recent years, which might be serious.

### For Trial Only:

**BLUECROP**—A week later than Earliblue. Bush very productive, but there is some question about its retaining good vigor as it grows older. Berries light blue, attractive and firm. Worthy of moderate trial.

**BLUERAY**—Begins to ripen about with Bluecrop.

Vigorous, productive bush. Berries large but not as attractive as Bluecrop. Clusters are rather tight. Picking scar rather large. For limited trial only.

**BERKELEY**—Begins to ripen two weeks after Earliblue. Vigorous, productive bush. Berries large, light blue, attractive and of mild flavor. Good points are productiveness and large size. Questionable points are a tendency for its fruit to drop when ripe, and possible susceptibility to frost. Worthy of moderate trial.

**COVILLE**—Begins to ripen about a week after Jersey. Vigorous, productive bush. Berries large, firm and good in flavor. An excellent variety, but should be planted in only a limited way in Michigan because of its late season of maturity.



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