

Fruit Variety 2019 Recommendations for South Dakota

Rhoda Burrows | Professor and SDSU Extension Horticulture Specialist
Anne Fennell | Professor, Agronomy, Horticulture & Plant Science Department

The varieties listed in this publication were selected on the basis of general availability to the consumer and upon their known reliability, including disease resistance, for general growing conditions in South Dakota.

TREE FRUIT

Apples

Two cultivars are required for cross-pollination for fruit set; a crabapple will also work.



Frostbite apple
Photo courtesy of David Hansen,
University of Minnesota

| Variety | Resistance to | | | Season | Storage | Notes |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|------------|------------|-----------|--|
| | Scab | Cedar Apple Rust | Fireblight | | | |
| Chestnut Crab | Good | Moderate | Good | Aug/Sept | Poor | Large crabapple with excellent flavor |
| Zestar | Poor | Moderate | Moderate | Aug/Sept | 4-5 wks | Sweet, crisp, precocious |
| Sweet 16 | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Sept | Fair | Vigorous, slow to bear, very sweet |
| Honeycrisp | Excellent | Moderate | Good | Sept | 7 months | Sweet, crisp; juicy, Young trees susceptible to stress |
| Cortland | Good | Moderate | Moderate | Sept | 5 -6 wks | Excellent baking, cider |
| Freedom | Good | Good | Good | Sept | Excellent | "Homely" but good flavor |
| Liberty | Excellent | Excellent | Good | Sept/Oct | Good | Sweet-tart flavor |
| Keepsake | Moderate | Excellent | Moderate | early Oct | Excellent | Homely apple, sweet, spicy |
| Redfree | Excellent | Excellent | Moderate | Aug/Sept | 4-8 wks | Sweet; Firm; Ripens unevenly |
| Frostbite | Good | Moderate | Good | Early Oct. | 12 wks. | Intense flavor; small apple |
| Regent | Poor | Moderate | Moderate | mid-Oct | Good | Intermediate hardiness |
| Haralson | Good | Good | Good | Oct | Good | Alternate year bearer; tart |
| Snowsweet | Moderate | Moderate | Moderate | Oct | 4-8 wks | Flesh slow to brown when cut |

Notes: Wealthy, State Fair, Beacon, and Honeygold are NOT generally recommended because of disease susceptibility. Unfortunately, resistance to apple scab seems to be decreasing (breaking down), even for the more resistant varieties. Varieties such as Delicious, Braeburn, Fuji, Gala, Jonathan, Goldens, etc. are NOT reliably hardy enough for South Dakota.

Recommended rootstocks:

Dwarfing (Trees will usually require staking, at least for the first few years; do not use in harsher areas of the state.)

M26 or EMLA 26: 8-10 ft tall trees; hardy; but susceptible to fire blight.

Bud 9 or M9: 6-8 ft. tall trees; Bud 9 has fewer suckers than M9; hardy; will need staking because of shallow root system

Semidwarf (75-80% of normal tree size):

M111: Very hardy; can withstand drier soil; may need to special order.

M7 or 7a: 10 ft. tall trees); warmer areas of the state; not recommended for northern half of state where it can winterkill if there is not snow cover or good mulch during extreme cold.

Seedling/standard size rootstocks are generally hardy and result in larger, very long-lived trees, but will take longer to come into bearing.

Apricots

Moongold and **Sungold** are moderately hardy, though they will often be short-lived. Unfortunately, they bloom early and the blossoms are more often than

not killed by spring frosts. They require a second variety for cross-pollination.

Varieties for trial (no data is available yet on winter survival and fruiting in SD, but they are said to bloom later and have better fruit quality than Moongold or Sungold):

Self-pollinating*: **Harcot, Harogem, Brookcot**

**Yields may improve with a pollinator*

Require pollinator: **Harlayne** (*Harcot, Hargrand, or Harogem are recommended pollinizers*);

Sugar Pearls (*warmest areas only*)



Apricots

Photo by Craig Ledbetter, USDA-ARS

Pears

Plant at least two cultivars for pollination. Pears bloom quite early, so the crop may be lost to late frosts. Allow adequate space (200 to 350 ft² per tree). Quince rootstocks are not hardy enough for South Dakota. Old Home x Farmingdale series rootstock OH x F 333 is

| Pear Variety | Ripens | Fire blight Resistance | Self-fruitful | Fruit Size* | Flavor | Notes |
|--------------|---------------|------------------------|---------------|-------------|-----------------------|--|
| Summercrisp | Mid-Aug | + | Partial? | M | Mild Sweet | Crisp texture (similar to Asian pear); UMN release |
| Ure | Mid-Aug | ++ | No | S-M | Bartlett-like | Juicy when fully ripe; from Morden Manitoba |
| Parker | Mid-Aug | - | Partial | L | Bartlett-like | Poor winterhardiness, use only in warmer areas of the state |
| Gourmet | Mid-Late Sept | + | No | M | Sweet | Juicy, firm crisp fruit; Pollen-sterile (can't be used to pollinate another variety); SDSU release |
| Luscious | Mid-Late Sept | + | No | S-M | Intense Bartlett-like | Attractive autumn color; Pollen-sterile (can't be used to pollinate another variety); SDSU release |
| Patten | Mid-Late Sept | - | Partial | L | Bartlett-like | Originated in Iowa; Slightly hardier than Parker; Tender and Juicy, Not for canning |
| Golden Spice | Sept-Oct | ++ | No | S | Variable | Very hardy; Good pollinator; showy flowers; small fruit |
| Siberian | | +++ | | | | Inedible ornamental; use as pollinator |

*S=Small; M=medium; L=Large (Bartlett Sized)



Summercrisp Pear
Photo courtesy of David Hansen,
University of Minnesota



Cherries at NDSU research farm.
Photo courtesy of Lynn Renee

resistant to fireblight, semi-dwarfing, and hardy enough at least for the warmer areas of the state.

Cherries

Plums and cherries bloom sooner than apples, so their flower buds/young fruit are more likely than apples to be killed by spring frosts. Only tart cherries are reliably hardy in South Dakota; tart cherries are self-fruitful.

North Star. Natural dwarf (6-10 ft); 3/4-inch diameter dark red fruit with dark red flesh; ornamental tree.

Meteor. Semi-dwarf (8-14 ft); larger fruit, bright red with yellow flesh; 7-10 days later to ripen.

Mesabi. Tart x sweet cross; sweeter fruit.

For trial (have not been tested in SD): **Surefire**, a later blooming variety with bright red skin and flesh; **Sweet Cherry Pie™**, a self-fruitful, sweeter tart cherry that is said to be hardy to -40°F, tree to 15 ft. high.

Plums

Hybrids (all those listed below except Mount Royal) need cross-pollination (i.e., plant two different cultivars).

Toka is an excellent pollinator. **Superior** will pollinate most plums, except for **LaCrescent**.

The fungal disease black knot, common in chokecherries, may infect plums and shorten tree life.



Alderman Plum
Photo courtesy of David Hansen,
University of Minnesota

| Plum Variety | Ripens | Winter-hardiness | Fruit Size | Skin Color | Flesh color | Notes |
|--------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------|---|
| Underwood | Late July – early Aug | Very Hardy | M | Red | Yellow | MN release |
| Black Ice | Early Aug | Very Hardy | VL | Dark blue | Red | Vigorous; tough skin; sweet; precocious; small tree with vigorous growth – prune heavily; fruit may split with excessive rain |
| LaCrescent | Early-mid Aug | Very Hardy | S-M | Yellow | Yellow | Freestone |
| Toka | Mid-Aug | Very Hardy | S | Red | Yellow | “Bubblegum plum” - Wild plum hybrid; excellent pollinator; sweet/spicy; SDSU |
| Waneta | Aug | Hardy | L | Red | Yellow | Juicy; prolific; small pit; SDSU |
| Alderman | Late Aug | Warmer areas of SD | L | Burgundy | Yellow | Large fruit; attractive tree; UMN |
| Pembina | Late Aug | Hardy | M-L | Red (blue waxy bloom) | Yellow | SDSU release |
| Pipestone | Late Aug | Hardy | VL | Red | Yellow | Sweet, Juicy; Clingstone; peels easily; Pollinators: Toka, Superior |
| Mount Royal | Late Aug-Sept. | Warmest areas only (Zone 5) | L | Deep blue | Yellow-green | Hardest European plum; no pollinator needed; Freestone |
| Superior | Sept | Warmer areas of SD | L | Red | Yellow | Large fruit if thinned; clingstone; Sweet and juicy |

SMALL FRUIT

Strawberries

| Cultivar | Season | Hardiness | Size | Texture | Flavor | Verticillium |
|---------------------------------|-----------|--------------|----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|
| <i>Junebearing:</i> | | | | | | |
| Allstar | Late mid | Fair | Medium | Very Good | Very Good | Resistant |
| Annapolis | Early | Good | Medium | Very Good | Good | Susceptible |
| Cavendish | Late mid | Very Good | Large | Excellent | Good | Unknown |
| Dunlap | Mid | Excellent | Sm.-Med | Fair | Good | Unknown |
| Earliglow | Early | Fair | Small | Excellent | Excellent | Resistant |
| Glooscap | Late mid | Excellent | Medium | Soft | Very Good | Intermediate |
| *Honeoye | Early mid | Very Good | Medium | Fair*** | Good | Susceptible |
| Itasca | Early mid | Very Good | Medium | Mod. soft | "Tangerine" | ? |
| Jewel | Late mid | Fair to good | Large | Excellent | Excellent | Susceptible |
| Kent | Late mid | Excellent | Medium | Fair*** | Very Good | Susceptible |
| **Mesabi | Midseason | Excellent | Med - L | Fair*** | Very Good | ? |
| Sparkle | Late | Very Good | Medium | Good | Good | Susceptible |
| Winona | Late | Very Good | Large | Excellent | Excellent | Unknown |
| Veestar | Early | Good | Small | Good | Very Good | Intermediate |
| <i>Everbearing/day neutral:</i> | | | | | | |
| Ft. Laramie | | Excellent | Large | Fair | Fair | Intermediate |
| Ogallala | | Excellent | Small | Good | Good | Unknown |
| Tribute | | Very Good | Medium | Very Good | Good | Resistant |
| Tristar | | Very Good | Sm.- Med | Very Good | Very Good | Resistant |
| Albion | | Fair | Large | Very Good | Good | Resistant |

Note: Day Neutral strawberries may be grown as annuals in protected culture, such as low or high tunnels.

*Honeoye is not suggested for heavy soils **Mesabi does not tolerant high pH soils ***Softens in hot weather

Currants

Red and White (self-fruitful, but may yield better with second red, white, or pink cultivar for pollination)



Red Currant
Photo courtesy of Lynn Renee

Blanka: White fruit, heavy yields on vigorous plants.

Red Lake: Vigorous upright shrub with clusters of large, bright red berries; susceptible to powdery mildew.

Pink Champagne: Light pink berries; good fresh or processed.

Rovada: Late season, very large red fruit; resistant to powdery mildew and other leaf diseases.

Black currants (generally not self-fruitful; need two black currant varieties for good production)

Ben Sarek: Very hardy compact plants, large soft fruit; good flavor; self-fertile; some susceptibility to white pine blister rust

Consort: Resistant to white pine blister rust, susceptible to mildew. Strong bitter flavor. Moderate hardiness.

Minaj Smyriou: Very hardy; Resistant to white pine blister rust; fruit somewhat dry

Titiana: Very good resistance to white pine blister rust; heavy yield of good quality sweet-tart fruit.

Gooseberries

Pixwell: Medium-sized pinkish berries; bland flavor; has relatively few thorns.

Hinnomaki Red: Good flavor and high yield; deep red, almost purple berries; good disease resistance

Poorman: Berries red with good flavor; sturdy, vigorous but thorny bush.

Welcome: Very hardy with few thorns. Berries light dull red, larger than Pixwell.

Jewel: Polish variety with peach-colored intensely flavored fruit, good disease resistance, compact growth

Black Velvet: Very hardy; sweet dark-red fruit; disease resistant

Jahn's Prairie: Very hardy; large sweet reddish-pink fruit; 5 ft. tall bush; resistant to mildew

Jostaberry: Gooseberry x black currant cross. Susceptible to white pine blister rust. Recommended only for the curious.

Raspberries

Raspberries are susceptible to a number of viruses and other diseases. Be sure to acquire plants from a source that ensures their plants are virus-free.



Raspberry

Summer-fruiting:

Prelude: Technically fall bearing, but produces biggest portion of crop in early summer (late June?) on floricanes. Hardy in warmer areas of state, medium to large berries, variable flavor. Vigorous plants. Resistant to root rots.

Boyne: Early to mid-season. Berries are medium-sized, dark-red, sweet. Very hardy; productive; suckers freely. Susceptible to anthracnose and fire blight. Fruit can be quite small, freezes well. Upright, short, very spiny canes.

Latham: Bright red fruit opens over long period; very good for processing but not fresh eating. Fruit can be quite small. Spiny canes; vigorous plants require trellis. Not as productive, but disease-resistant, except for viruses. Hardy.

Nova: Early to mid-season. Bright-red medium to large

firm fruit, somewhat acidic. Stores very well. Very few spines; vigorous; with high yield. Hardy and disease resistant. Very reliable. May be particularly attractive to deer!

Killarney: Mid-season; very productive; very bright red firm fruit that softens in hot weather. Fair flavor, tends to turn brown if canned. Susceptible to anthracnose and mildew, but resistant to root rots. Canes are medium short, spiny, and very hardy. High yielding.

Encore: Late season; Large sweet berries; vigorous, nearly thornless canes. Hardy. Moderately susceptible to root rots.

Fall-fruiting:

Autumn Bliss: Large dark red to purplish fruit; good tart flavor; fruit freezes well. Spiny canes, medium ht. High yield. Susc. to crumbly fruit virus, otherwise very reliable.

Autumn Britten: Medium to dark red fruit; early yield. Compared to Autumn Bliss, it has fewer spines, better quality fruit, less vigorous canes and lower yielding (plant closer together to compensate).

Caroline: Large, long red fruit, sweet with fair flavor and shelf life; freezes well. Some disease resistance; good yield, but late for northern areas. Sensitive to drought. Moderate to good resistance to Phytophthora root rot.

Double Delight: Early, high yielding (smallish fruit, but many double fruit), medium-red fruit, hardy

Fall Gold: Medium fruit, yellow with pink blush, soft, with excellent very sweet flavor; poor for processing. Vigorous canes; suckers profusely.

Polana: Early fall (three weeks before Heritage). Large, bright red fruit; good flavor. Many double fruits. Short canes with high yield. Thrives under high soil fertility. Susceptible to Verticillium wilt and Phytophthora crown rots.

Red Wing: Very productive in areas with later fall frosts (fruits later than Autumn Bliss but before Heritage). Fruit tends to be soft; doesn't ship well. Tall canes with high yield. Susceptible to anthracnose – cut all canes to ground during the winter.

The following fall-fruiting (mid- to late Sept) types are

very late season and fruits are often lost to early frosts; therefore, they should only be planted in the warmer areas of South Dakota, or in high tunnels:

Anne. Large, yellow, excellently flavored fruit; slightly earlier than Heritage; slow-growing, relatively low yield, but disease resistant.

Heritage. Good quality bright red fruit; taller canes, requires trellis; very late.

Kiwi Gold (Heritage sport). Med. to large peachy yellow berries with excellent flavor; ripens same time as Heritage.

Purple raspberries: Warmest areas of South Dakota only (due to late ripening as well as winter hardiness).

Royalty. Large soft fruit; good flavor. Tall thorny canes; requires trellis. Susceptible to drought and crown gall.

Black raspberries: are not recommended except in the very warmest regions of South Dakota due to lack of winter hardiness, and then only in protected areas. **Jewel** is the hardiest black raspberry, with small fruit; may be invasive in warmer areas.

Primocane blackberries: Crowns are not reliably hardy in South Dakota. Some other blackberry cultivars are described as hardy, but often die-back, especially in open winters or with sudden drops in temperature.

SHRUB FRUIT

Honeyberry/Haskaps (*Lonicera caerulea*)

These fruit originate from moist northern forest regions of Japan, Eurasia and North America. Selections from Japanese types generally go by the name "Haskap,"

while those from Eurasia are generally called "Honeyberry." Most types need at least two different, compatible varieties to pollinate each other. Although they bloom very early, their blooms can withstand down to 20°F. The flavorful fruit can be used fresh or in processing; and make a very good substitute for blueberries, which are not adapted to South Dakota soils and climate. Be aware that the berries reach full ripeness up to three weeks



Honeyberry
Photo courtesy of Karen Hine

after turning color.

Note: Because this is a new fruit to South Dakota, consider plantings as experimental. However, we do have several commercial plantings east of the Missouri river. New improved varieties are being released each year, with improved flavor.

Early to Mid-season

Aurora: Large firm relatively sweet berries, upright growth, at least partially self-fruitful, good yields, mildew resistant

Honey Bee: Large berries, a bit tart, upright growth, leaves resistant to sunburn and mildew; good pollinizer

Indigo Treat: Sweet-tart firm berries; very early; some tolerance to mildew and sunburn

Note: a similarly named "Indigo Gem" is very susceptible to sunburn and mildew.

Tundra: Sweet firm berry; early-ripening; foliage sunburns easily

Later Season (Japanese selections)

Solo 'Kapu': Self-fruitful (but larger berries with pollinizer); sweet-tart firm berry; **YezBerry™** cultivar

Maxie: Very large sweet-tart fruit; **YezBerry™** cultivar

Keiko: Sweet, medium-large berries; susceptible to powdery mildew

(Western) sandcherry (*Prunus besseyi*)

Small native shrub, may be partially self-sterile; small dark fruit used in jams and jellies. Sometimes called "Hansen bush cherry." Ornamental spring bloom and fall color.

Nanking cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*)

Large shrub, may be at least partially self-sterile; small bright red fruit, sweet-tart cherry flavor, used fresh or processed. Also sometimes called "Hansen bush cherry." Needs winter protection from rabbits.

Aronia (*Aronia melanocarpa* = *Photinia melanocarpa*)

Sometimes called black "chokeberry." Self-fruitful. Small dark fruit is astringent, mostly used processed.

Very attractive shrub with white flowers, shiny dark-green foliage and good fall color. Cultivars: Nero 3-4', Viking 3-6', McKenzie 6-10' high.

Buffaloberry
(Shepherdia argentea)

Native shrub; thorny male and female plants (need both for fruit!); orange-red tart fruit best after frost. Very drought tolerant.



Buffaloberry

Chokecherry
(Prunus virginiana)

Native shrub or small tree. Small astringent fruit usually red or very dark red, but yellow selections exist.



Chokecherry

Juneberry/Serviceberry *(Amelanchier alnifolia)*

Native shrub, also known as Saskatoon. Self-fruitful. Small edible fruit, good fresh or processed, much loved by birds. Named cultivars may be difficult to obtain with the exception of "Regent" which is a shorter (to 6 ft) ornamental variety with comparative low yield of rather bland fruit. Look for selections for fruit including Smokey, Martin, Honeywood, Northline, Pembina, and others.



Juneberries

American highbush cranberry *(Viburnum trilobum)*

Unlike its relative, the European highbush cranberry (*V. opulus*), the red fruit of this native species is edible and can be used for juice, jams, or jellies. Very hardy attractive shrub. Needs second shrub for good fruit set.

Elderberry *(Sambucus canadensis)*

Fruit is dark purple and used for jams, jellies, juice, or wine. Partially self-fruitful; tolerates some shade; not drought tolerant. Ranch, Adams2, Nova, Scotia and Johns are varieties selected for their fruit; Scotia berries have the highest sugar content; Nova berries are also said to be less astringent.



Elderberry

For more information on fruit growing, see:

Strawberries in South Dakota. Burrows, R. and A. Fennell. 2016

Growing Raspberries in South Dakota. Burrows, R. and A. Fennell. 2015.

Fire Blight. Burrows, R. 2018.

<https://extension.sdstate.edu/sites/default/files/2018-12/06-2003-2018.pdf>

Grape Varieties for South Dakota. Burrows, R. and A. Fennell. 2015.

Soil Testing for Vineyards in South Dakota.

R. Burrows. 2019. <https://extension.sdstate.edu/soil-testing-vineyards-south-dakota>

Overhead Netting for Vineyards and Orchards.

Burrows, R., A. Bender, A. Fennell, and B. Thaden.



Winona Strawberries
Photo courtesy of David Hansen,
University of Minnesota