

## *Growing cherries....*

Cherries require a **light, well-drained soil and full SUN**. It's important that they are not planted in a wet area.

**Mulching is necessary** for recently planted cherry trees due to their shallow root system.

Cherries **do not require** much fertilization, so careful if fertilizing. Over fertilizing may cause a tree to grow too quickly, bear little fruit and become more susceptible to disease.

### *....a note about harvesting*

Cherries are ripe and ready for harvest when they pull from the branch easily.

Look for size and color before pulling.

The longer they stay on the tree the sweeter they'll become. But, don't wait too long otherwise the birds will steal them all.

\*\*\*tree netting helps keep the birds from eating all your cherries.



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# Cherries



A guide to  
selecting the  
best varieties  
for your garden



### **Bing**

Most widely grown sweet cherry, ripening mid-season. Large, dark red fruit is produced on this vigorous growing tree. Firm and meaty flesh is purple and freestone. Cold hardy to Zone 5. Pollinate with 'Black Tatarian' or 'Stella'.

### **Black Tatarian**

Vigorous, erect grower. Heavy bearer of large, bright purplish-black fruit. Tender juicy and very rich. One of the earliest cherries to ripen. Cold hardy to Zone 5. Can be pollinated by any other sweet cherry.

### **Lapins \***

Sweet, dark cherry that is self-fertile (meaning you do not need another cherry tree to produce fruit). These cherries are crisp, sweet, and one of the best high quality dessert cherries available, perfect for pies, preserving or drying. Becoming ripe and ready for picking late July into August. Early blooming. Cold hardy to Zone 5.

### **Montmorency \***

An heirloom cherry, with 100 years of fruiting history. This is one of the most widely grown "sour cherries" in America. Produces a heavy crop of cherries ripening in July and August. Great for pies and other baked goods. Cold hardy to Zone 3.

### **North Star \***

Dwarf sour cherry, maturing 6-9' in height. Hardest cherry, produces heavy crops of bright red fruit with a small seed. Disease resistant and self-pollinating, this tart cherry is excellent for pies and preserves. Cold hardy to Zone 4.

### **Rainer**

A vigorous and productive tree, which bears heavily with fruit ready to be picked in mid August. A premium quality cherry that resists cracking while ripening, producing a medium to large size fruit with red skinned, blushed yellow. A fine, firm fruit that has a unique but distinct flavor. Pollinate with any other sweet cherry. Cold hardy to Zone 6.

### **Stella \***

Large, heart-shaped, dark red fruit are produced on this self-pollinating sweet cherry. Sweet, rich flavor on a vigorous, productive tree make this an excellent choice. Moderate crack resistance. Use to pollinate any other sweet cherry. Cold hardy to Zone 5.

\*indicates this variety is self-fertile, meaning that it will produce fruit without pollination of another tree.