

Potential fruit trees and shrubs for zone 3 and 4 areas of Wyoming

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(Notes for Successfully Growing Trees in Albany County Workshop 2023)

This is a general list and not complete. There are many other options available for specific rootstock and fruit that may grow in Wyoming. A lot of care is needed, even for the correct fruit and rootstock variety, to withstand Wyoming's growing challenges.

If you choose a variety that is not cold hardy enough for your area, it may grow for a number of years before a harsh winter kills it. Also, please remember disease resistance is subjective.

Apples

- Rootstock - Antonovka, full size tree with very cold tolerant root system. There are quite a few other options for root stocks.
- Varieties
 - Honeycrisp (small grained, crisp, and sweet)
 - Zestar (very similar to Honeycrisp)
 - Fireside (smaller and very sweet)
 - Sweet Sixteen (very cold hardy, good for storage, and great for fresh eating)
 - State Fair (parent to Zestar, good for fresh eating and white flesh)
 - Haralson (great for baking and cider and cold hardy)
 - Yellow transparent (best for eating when picked fresh)
 - Wealthy (Very old variety that is extremely common throughout Wyoming. Apples tend to be smaller and tart)
 - Honeygold (yellow skin and similar to yellow transparent)
 - Cortland (red color and great for eating fresh or cooking)
 - Northern Spy (great for eating and cold hardy, but requires a long growing season)

[Wyoming Apple Project site](https://malusdomestica.wixsite.com/wyomingappleproject) (Site includes a list of Wyoming lost and found apple cultivars, recommended cultivars, identification booklets, parentage info, grafting and pruning info and videos, and information on growth, maintenance disease and pests.)

<https://malusdomestica.wixsite.com/wyomingappleproject>

Pears

- Rootstock - *Pyrus communis* (native pear) or *Pyrus ussuriensis* (Ussurian or Harbin Pear). Both are native to Europe and Asia
- Varieties - find something that will mature early
 - Cabot (Good for fresh eating, September maturity date, and medium sized fruit)

- Celine (Good for fresh eating, late ripening, and should be picked to allow for ripening in cold storage)
- Flemish Beauty (Late ripening and great for fresh eating)
- Luscious (Large fruit that is great for fresh eating and mid to late maturing dates)
- Patten (Large fruit that is great for fresh eating and is late maturing)- Savignac (medium sized fruit, very hardy, and good for fresh eating)
- Summercrisp (early maturing, good for storing, and can be eaten when still green)
- Ure (small fruit for fresh eating, September maturity, and very cold hardy)

Plums

- Wyoming is host to a native plum, (*Prunus americana*)
- Rootstock - American plum is great and is a natural dwarf
- Many varieties require cross pollination
- They often require cross pollination from plants in the same group

American Plums

- Tend to be smaller in fruit size compared to other groups
- Suggested to be more tolerant of high pH soils
- Can be pruned to a central leader or open vase structure
- Varieties
 - Blackice (large fruit, dark purple-black skin)
 - Underwood (large fruit, dark red skin)
 - Toka (Medium sized fruit that is dark red)
 - LaCrescent (medium sized fruit, yellow skin)
 - Pipestone (Large fruit, red skin)
 - Waneta (Large fruit, yellow and red skin)
 - American Plum (Very small fruit)

European Plums

- European plums tend to be larger in size than American plums
- Cultivars are developed from European plums native to Europe
- These varieties can still be grafted to American Plum rootstock
- Most often pruned to a central leader structure
- Varieties
 - Green gage (small with green skin and very sweet)
 - Northern blue (medium sized fruit, and self-fertile)
 - Hildreth (small fruit, but very sweet)
 - Mount Royal (sweet flesh, yellow-green flesh, and self-fertile)
 - Opal (Very productive with red colored fruit)

Cherries

- Rootstock- for the varieties listed below it is not always needed
- Varieties
 - Bali (Also called Evans. Originated from Alberta, 1" size fruit)
 - Northstar (Natural dwarf introduced from the University of Minnesota, good fresh eating or baking)

- Meteor (Another introduction from the University of Minnesota, potentially more productive than Northstar, and is a natural dwarf)
- Montmorency (Potentially the most common pie cherry, grows the largest of tr varieties listed, and excellent fruit)
- The University of Saskatchewan Fruit Program has recently introduced some (sometimes sweeter) new varieties of dwarf sour cherries into the market (originally developed for commercial production in Canada). The Romance Series: 'Carmin Jewel', 'Crimson Passion', 'Juliet' and 'Romeo'. They have been tested in North Dakota. To see the results (including Spotted wing drosophila fruit fly issues) visit: <https://www.ag.ndsu.edu/carringtonrec/archive/northern-hardy-fruit-evaluation-project/fruit-index/dwarf-sour-cherry/canadian-dwarf-sour-cherries-2013-prunus-x-kerrasis>
- Balaton (Introduced from Hungary, lager size tree, and is said to have very sweet tasting cherries)
- Nanking (Very short in stature and is most often a shrub, excellent tolerance for Wyoming's climate, and has small fruit that is very tasty)
- Chokecherry, pin cherry, and sand cherry (very small fruit and cold hardy). Chokecherries are native to Wyoming (*Prunus virginiana*)
- Kristen (A potential sweet cherry for zone 4 areas of Wyoming. Not self-fertile and needs a second pollinator. This cherry needs more testing in WY)

Apricots

- Most apricots are not reliable each year because of early fruiting patterns.
- Varieties
 - Sungold (Later blooming than most varieties, with large fruit)
 - Mandan (Large fruit and cold tolerant)
 - Moongold (Large fruit and blooms fairly resistant to frost events)
 - Chinese (Mormon) (Small to medium sized fruit, blossoms will withstand some light frost events)
 - Westcot (Large size fruit with tolerance to cold climates)

Peaches

- Most often not cold tolerant for most of Wyoming, however some locations can support peaches.
- Varieties
 - Contender (known for cold tolerance and the ability to produce fruit in cold climates)
 - Reliance (potential option for certain areas of Wyoming)
 - Cresthaven (Cold tolerant, but less so than Contender and Reliance)
 - Redhaven (Cold tolerant, but less so than Contender and Reliance)
 - Intrepid (Cold tolerant, but less so than Contender and Reliance)

Currants and Gooseberries

- Black
 - Ben Sarek (highly resistant to blister rust, but susceptible to mildew)
 - Titania (highly resistant to mildew and blister rust)
 - Consort (highly resistant to blister rust)

- White
 - White Imperial (very mildew resistant)
 - Blanca White (very mildew resistant)
 - Primus White (susceptible to mildew)

- Red
 - Red lake (mostly resistant to blister rust, but susceptible to m
 - Rovada (resistant to mildew and leaf spot diseases)
 - Tatran (very resistant to mildew)

- Gooseberries (have thorns)
 - Pixwell (pink) (mildew resistant)
 - Invicta (resistant to mildew, but not leaf spot)
 - Poorman (very resistant to mildew)

Serviceberries or Juneberries

- Autumn Brilliance (great fall color, 20-25 feet tall, and medium sized fruit)
- Princess Diana (20 feet tall when mature, large purple fruit)
- Fergie (Very small and only reaches 5-6ft tall)
- Prince William (about 10 feet high when mature)
- Theissen (12-14 feet tall with wide growth pattern, and large fruit)

For more information on growing fruit trees in Wyoming please visit:

<http://www.uwyo.edu/barnbackyard/> and <https://www.wyoextension.org/agpubs/pubs/B-1340.pdf>