

PEARS

(Mid August - Mid October)

Description: Pears are teardrop shaped or round, and can be green, yellow, brown, red or a combination of these colors when mature.



You know pears are ready when:

- Their green hue lightens and yellows.
- Pears pull easily from branch when tilted sideways and twisted.
- Pears are still firm, but have the slightest amount of give when squeezed near the stem.

Above: **Bartlett Pears**

Schedule a harvest. A good time to schedule is when the pears have changed slightly in color and pull easily from the branch.

.We can't harvest if

- The load is too low. Must be at least **200 lbs** of fruit.
- The fruit is **overripe**. Pears that are overripe will not transport or store well on their way to donation sites.
- The fruit is far too **underripe**. Pears picked too early may never fully ripen or may not develop full flavor.

Maintaining Your Pear Tree:

- **Pruning:** Pears need moderate pruning each year, in late winter/early spring.
- **Fertilizing:** Fertilize yearly in the early spring.
- **Watering:** Young trees need extra water to grow, while all fruit trees need additional water during periods of hot, dry weather. Thoroughly soak the soil around your fruit trees every other week. Mulching around the base of your tree can help retain soil moisture as well.
- **Thinning:** Pear trees benefit from fruit thinning when the fruits are small - about ½ inch wide. This will help the remaining pears grow larger, as well as increase the yield of pears the next year, and reduce damage from codling moths - who prefer to lay their eggs in fruit that is close together or touching.
- **Harvesting:** Pears must be harvested before they are ripe. They ripen from the inside out, so by the time they seem ripe on the outside, they are likely to be overripe. To harvest pears, lightly grasp the fruit, tilt it horizontally, and twist. When ready, the pear should easily detach from the branch. Leave the stem on the fruit.

- **Disease & Pest Control:** For more information on pear pests and diseases, [click here](#).
 - Fire blight impacts the blossoms, limbs, and fruits of pear tree, turning them black. Pruning and fertilizing can help reduce susceptibility to infection. Fire blight can kill the tree and endanger trees in the area.
 - Codling moths, a very common pest in apple trees, also inject their larvae into pears.

To sign up for our tree care services, which including pruning, fertilizing, and pest control, [click here](#).

Pear Varieties:

- **Bartlett pears** are the earliest and most common pear variety. They are a classic pear shape and should be ready for picking from mid to late August through mid September.
- **Asian pears** are round, crisp, and juicy. They are green, yellow, or russet brown in color. This is the only pear variety that can be picked when ripe, rather than beforehand.
- **Winter pear** varieties are ready later in the season - from late September through October. If they are picked with the earlier pear varieties, they may not ever ripen. Winter pears are often more round and stout in shape.



Above: Asian Pears



Above: Winter Pears

Storage Tips:

- Pears must ripen off of the tree and will have better flavor if picked closer to being ripe.
- Leave pears in a cool place to ripen. As they ripen, the pears should soften and sweeten. It can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks for pears to ripen.
- Pears can be frozen, dried, or canned. [Click here](#) for more information on storing and preserving.

Resources:

- [USU Extension](#)
- [Not Far From the Tree](#)
 - *The Fruit Gardener's Bible*, Hill & Perry (2011)



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