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Fruit Varieties for South Dakota 2006–2007

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

Apples

Two cultivars are required to cross-pollinate for fruit set; a crabapple will also work

	<i>Resistance to:</i>			<i>Season</i>	<i>Storage</i>	<i>Notes</i>
	<i>Cedar Apple Rust</i>	<i>Scab</i>	<i>Fireblight</i>			
Honeycrisp	Moderate	Excellent	Good	Sept	Very Good	Sweet, crisp
Zestar	Moderate	Poor	Moderate	Aug/Sept	4-5 wks	Sweet, crisp
Sweet 16	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Sept	Good	Vigorous grower; very sweet
Haralson	Moderate	Poor	Some	Oct	Good	Alternate year bearer; tart
Liberty	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Oct	Good	Intermediate hardiness
Freedom	Excellent	Good	Poor	Sept	Excellent	Intermediate hardiness
Keepsake	Excellent	Moderate	Good	early Oct	Excellent	Ugly apple, sweet, spicy
Regent	Good	Poor	Poor	mid-Oct	Excellent	Intermediate hardiness
Cortland	Moderate	Good	Good	Sept	5 -6 weeks	Excellent baking, cider
Snowsweet	Unknown	Moderate	Moderate	Oct	1-2 mos	New release; trial only
Chestnut Crab	Excellent	Moderate	Moderate	Aug/Sept	Poor	Large edible crabapple

State Fair, Beacon, and Honeygold are **NOT** generally recommended because of disease susceptibility. Varieties such as Delicious, Braeburn, Fuji, Gala, Jonathan, Goldens, etc. are **NOT** hardy enough here.

Recommended rootstocks:

Dwarfing (Trees will usually require staking, at least for the first few years.)

M26 or **EMLA 26**. 8-10 ft; hardy; but susceptible to fireblight.

Bud 9 or **M9**. 6-8 ft; Bud 9 has fewer suckers than M9; hardy; will need staking.

Semidwarf (80% of normal):

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

M7 or **7a**. 75% size; warmer areas of the state; not recommended for northern half of state where it can winterkill if there is not snow cover during extreme cold.

Seedling / standard size rootstocks are generally hardy and result in very long-lived trees.

Pears (Usually need two cultivars for cross-pollination)

Summercrisp. Medium-sized, red-blushed fruit with mild sweet flavor and crisp texture, similar to an Asian pear. Moderately resistant to fire blight. Mid-Aug.

Gourmet. SDSU release. Medium-sized yellow fruit, juicy and sweet with firm and crisp texture. Somewhat resistant to fireblight. **Pollen-sterile, cannot be used as a pollinator.** Mid-late Sept.

Luscious. SDSU release. Small to medium-sized yellow fruit with flavor similar to Bartlett, but more intense. Somewhat resistant to fireblight. **Pollen-sterile, cannot be used as a pollinator.** Mid-late Sept.

Ure. Small, juicy Bartlett type with good flavor when perfectly ripe. Mid-Aug.

Golden Spice. SMALL fruit with variable (good to inedible) flavor; good pollinator. Sept-Oct.

Parker. Fruit similar in size, flavor, and texture to Bartlett. Use only in warmest areas of South Dakota. Mid-Sept.

Patten. Originally from Iowa, Patten, like Parker, produces fruit comparable in character to Bartlett. Hardiness is slightly better than Parker. Both Parker and Patten are reputed to produce some fruit without a second variety for cross-pollination. Mid- to late Sept.

The ornamental but inedible Siberian pear (*Pyrus ussuriensis*) may also be grown to pollinate edible pear varieties. Bradford pears are not hardy enough for South Dakota.

Apricots

Moongold and **Sungold** are the two varieties hardy for South Dakota. However, although the wood of these varieties is hardy, the blossoms are more often than not killed by spring frosts. Planting on an east slope or east side of house may help delay development and increase your chances of actually getting fruit. Both varieties are needed (along with active bees) to get fruit; they need cross-pollination.

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.

Plums (Plums and cherries bloom sooner than apples, so their flower buds/young fruit are more likely than apples to be killed by spring frosts.)

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.

Alderman. Not in coldest areas; large fruit with burgundy skin and yellow flesh; ripe late Aug; attractive as an ornamental tree.

LaCrescent. Small to medium yellow-skinned fruit, freestone; very hardy; early to mid-Aug.

Mount Royal. Warmest areas only; hardest of European plums; blue-black; doesn't need pollinator.

Pembina. From South Dakota; large, red skinned, yellow-fleshed fruit; late Aug; hardy.

Pipestone. Red skinned (peels easily); late Aug; hardy.

Superior. Warmer areas only; red-skinned; large fruit if thinned properly; Sept.

Toka. Not in coldest areas; from South Dakota; small, red-skinned spicy fruit; mid-Aug.

Underwood. Very hardy; medium-sized fruit; late July.

Waneta. From South Dakota; reddish skin with yellow flesh; Aug; hardy.

Raspberries

Summer-fruiting:

Boyne. Early to mid-season; dark-red fruit. Very hardy; productive; suckers freely. Very susceptible to anthracnose. 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. Hardy.

Nova. Early to mid-season. Bright-red firm fruit, somewhat acidic. Stores well. Very few spines; vigorous; with high yield. Hardy and disease resistant. Very reliable.

Killarney. Mid-season; very productive; very bright red firm fruit. Fair flavor, fair for freezing but tends to turn brown if canned. Fruit tends to become soft in hot weather. Plants sucker freely and are susceptible to anthracnose and mildew. Canes are medium short, strong, spiny, and very hardy. High yielding.

Fall-fruiting:

Autumn Bliss. Large dark red to purplish fruit; good flavor; shorter spiny canes. High yield. Very reliable.

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

Caroline. Large, long, red fruit with excellent flavor and shelf life. Some disease resistance; good yields.

Fall Gold. Fruit medium sized, yellow with pink blush, soft, with excellent flavor; poor for processing. Vigorous canes; suckers profusely.

Polana. Large, bright red fruit; fair to good tart flavor. Many double fruits. Short canes with high yield.

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 very warmest areas of South Dakota:

Anne. Large, yellow, excellently flavored fruit; slightly earlier than Heritage; relatively low yield.

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

Kiwi Gold. Medium to large yellow to peach berries with excellent flavor; ripens same time or later than Heritage (actually is a sport of Heritage).

Purple raspberries:

Royalty. Warmest areas of South Dakota only (due to late ripening). Large soft fruit; good flavor. Requires trellis.

Brandywine. Warmest areas only; tall canes; good yield; tart fruit are excellent for processing.

(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.)

Currants

Red Lake. Vigorous upright shrub with clusters of large, bright red berries.

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

Rovada. Late season, very large red fruit.

Consort. Black currant, resistant to white pine blister rust. Moderate hardiness.

Gooseberries

Pixwell. Medium-sized pinkish berries; tart flavor; has few thorns.

Hinnomake Red. Good flavor and high yield; deep red, almost purple berries.

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

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

Jostaberry. Cross between gooseberries and black currant. Susceptible to white pine blister rust. Recommended only for the curious.

Other cold-hardy shrub fruit

(Western) sandcherry (*Prunus besseyi*). Small native shrub, may be at least partially self-sterile; small dark fruit used in jams and jellies. Named selections are self-sterile. Sometimes called “Hansen bush cherry.”

Nanking cherry (*Prunus tomentosa*). Shrub, may be at least partially self-sterile; small bright red fruit used fresh or processed. Also sometimes called “Hansen bush cherry.”

Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia argentea*). Native shrub; thorny male and female plants (need both for fruit!); orange-red tart fruit best after frost.

Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*). Native shrub or small tree. Small astringent fruit usually red or very dark red, but yellow selections exist.

Juneberry / Serviceberry (*Amelanchier alnifolia*). Native shrub. Self-fruitful. Small edible fruit, good fresh or processed, much loved by birds. Named cultivars exist but are 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. “Smokey” is a larger-fruited variety.

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.

American elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*). Only the American elderberry has edible fruit, which is dark purple and used for jams, jellies, juice, or wine. Partially self-fruitful; tolerates some shade.

Strawberries

<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Season</i>	<i>Hardiness</i>	<i>Size</i>	<i>Texture</i>	<i>Flavor</i>	<i>Verticillium</i>
Junebearing:						
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	Very Good	Very Good	Intermediate
*Honeoye	Early mid	Very Good	Medium	Good	Good	Susceptible
**Itasca	Early mid	Good	Medium	Mod. soft	Good	?
Jewel	Late mid	Good	Large	Very Good	Very Good	Susceptible
Kent	Late mid	Very Good	Medium	Very Good	Very Good	Susceptible
Mesabi	Midseason	Excellent	Med - L	Excellent	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

Everbearing / day neutral:

Ft. Laramie	-	Excellent	Medium	Fair	Fair	Intermediate
Ogallala	-	Excellent	Large	Good	Good	Unknown
Tribute	-	Very Good	Medium	Very Good	Good	Resistant
Tristar	-	Very Good	Sm.-Med.	Very Good	Very Good	Resistant

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*Honeoye is not suggested for heavy soils

** New variety from University of Minnesota; trial

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