



Recommendations from the Carrington REC Fruit Project

NDSU Carrington Research Extension Center has been evaluating northern-hardy fruit varieties since 2006. The following varieties are hardy, have done the best or have the most useful fruits. For a full list of cultivars, contact the fruit project manager.

Apples: CREC has five varieties of apples easily grown in central North Dakota: 'Haralred', 'Hazen', 'Sweet Sixteen', 'Honey Crisp' and 'Zestar'. Our selection of 'Haralred' does not mature well and 'Sweet Sixteen' takes a very long time to fruit – though it is delicious.

Varieties: 'Hazen', 'Honey Crisp', 'Zestar'.

Plums: Plums have been spottily productive at CREC. Try a wild plum as a pollitizer.

Varieties: (recommended with reservations) 'Pembina', 'Pipestone', 'Toka' and 'Waneta'.

Grapes: Eighteen varieties are being evaluated for winter hardiness, ability to ripen and other qualities. The easiest-to-grow, most hardy grape for North Dakota is 'Valiant'. 'Somerset Seedless' has done well.

Aronia: (*Aronia melanocarpa*) Or, Black Chokeberry, is a partly-native North American plant developed into a commercial fruit in Eastern Europe. The fruit requires processing as it is quite astringent right off the bush but is very nutritious and high in anthocyanins. High interest in Central Plains.

Varieties: 'Viking', 'Nero', 'Raintree Select', 'McKenzie', 'Galicjanca'.

Cherries: (*Prunus x kerrasis*) These dwarf, zone-2 hardy pie cherries grow on a 5'x 7' high bush that can produce 20 to 30 lbs of fruit per plant. They are just becoming readily available in the US. Fruit is dark red throughout and has high sugar content. Subject to Spotted Wing Drosophila fruit fly damage.

Varieties: 'Carmine Jewel', 'Romeo', 'Juliet'. **Tree:** 'Evans' aka 'Bali'.

Currants: (*Ribes nigrum* and *rubrum*) Black currants have 5 times the amount of vitamin C in oranges and are loaded with antioxidants and anthocyanins. They are super-popular in Europe as juice, syrups and spreads. Jam, juice, wine and cordials are delicious. Flowers are susceptible to late-season freezes. Powdery mildew may be a problem. Near white pine trees, plant rust-resistant cultivars.

Varieties: Black: 'Titania', 'Minaj Smyriou', 'Ben Lomand', 'Champion'. Also, McGinnis Berry Crop plants.

Red: 'Red Lake', 'Rovada' or any. **White:** 'Swedish White'.

Honeyberry aka Haskap: (*Lonicera caerulea* var. *edulis* or *emphylocalyx*) A very hardy small shrub with unique, tasty, early-ripening fruit. No special soil conditions are needed. A circumpolar native, CREC has 7 Russian, 18 Japanese and 6 Canadian cultivars. Production has been underwhelming at CREC.

Varieties: Haskap: 'Indigo Gem', 'Tundra', 'Borealis'. **Pollenizers:** 'Berry Blue', 'Blue Belle', 'Aurora'.

Juneberry: (*Amelanchier alnifolia*) Juneberries are native to the northern Great Plains; the fruits are delicious fresh, frozen or processed. Bird damage can be a problem and there is disease pressure.

Varieties: 'Martin', 'Thiessen', 'JB30', 'Honeywood'. Good u-pick potential.

Gooseberries: (*Ribes uva-crispa* L.) Many varieties are susceptible to leaf diseases. Plants have thorns but the fruit is tasty and sweet-tart. Use like fresh grapes or make pies and jam.

Varieties: 'Hinnomaki Red', 'Captivator', 'Jewel', 'Red George', 'Black Velvet', 'Lepaa Red'.

Sea Buckthorn or Sea Berry: (*Hippophae rhamnoides*) Not recommended – Potentially invasive.

Elderberries: (*Sambucus canadensis*) Commercial varieties don't ripen at CREC and are not winter hardy. We are searching for hardier selections that we have heard about.

Contact: Kathy Wiederholt, Fruit Project Manager. Kathy.Wiederholt@ndsu.edu; 701-652-2951

US Fruits

Fedco *Various fruits. Many hardy for ND*
PO Box 520
Waterville, ME 04903
207-426-9900
www.fedcoseeds.com

One Green World – *Honeyberry, etc.*
28696 S. Cramer Rd.
Molalla OR 97038-8576
1-877-353-4028 / 1-503-651-3005
www.onegreenworld.com

Aronia Unlimited – *Aronia*
46551 264th St.
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
612-822-4040 (Jane Roberts)
www.aroniaunlimited.com

Whitman Farms – *Currants, gooseberry*
3995 Gibson Rd NW
Salem, OR 97304
503-585-8728
www.whitmanfarms.com

HoneyberryUSA – *Canadian haskaps & cherries*
19736 350th St; PO Box 512 *Juneberries*
Bagley, MN 56621
218-331-8070
www.honeyberryusa.com

Grapes

Northeastern Vine Supply
2494 Route 140
Poultney, VT 05764
802-287-9311
www.nevinesupply.com

Winterhaven Vineyard and Nursery - cuttings
18103 628th Avenue
Janesville, MN 56048
507-234-5469
www.winterhavengrapevines.com

Canadian Propagators for Cherry and Haskap

For additional propagators, see the University of Saskatchewan Fruit program website, below.

Riverbend Orchards Inc. – *Haskap, Juneberry*
100 Old Bridge Road
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 3X3
204-870-1140
www.riverbendorchards.ca

Prairie Plant Systems Inc. - *SK Cherries, Haskap*
Box 19A - RR#5 *Juneberries*
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3J8
306-975-1207
www.prairieplant.com

PrairieTech Propagation - *SK Cherries, Haskap*
5110 55 Ave. *Juneberries*
Bonnyville, Alberta T9N 2M9
780-826-6654 1-866-977-8733
www.prairietechpropagation.com

Fruit Information

NDSU-Carrington Research Extension Center
Northern Hardy Fruit Evaluation Project
www.ag.ndsu.edu/CarringtonREC

University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon
Fruit Program
www.fruit.usask.ca

Cornell Fruit and Berries
www.fruit.cornell.edu

Gardening in Michigan
Michigan State Extension
<http://migarden.msu.edu/fruit>

Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Assn.
www.mfvga.org

Iowa State University
Iowa State Extension
www.extension.iastate.edu/yardgarden/fruits

North Dakota Grape and Wine Association
www.ndgwa.org

Minnesota Grape Growers Association
www.mnrapegrowers.com