



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'. 'Haralred' is not exciting 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 pollinizer.

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

Grapes: Eighteen varieties have been 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 North American plant developed into a commercial fruit in Eastern Europe. The fruit requires processing as it is quite astringent right off of the bush but is very nutritious and high in anthocyanins. High interest in Central Plains.

Varieties: 'Viking', 'Raintree Select', 'McKenzie', 'Galicjanka'.

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 becoming more 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 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 when young. Near white pine trees, plant rust-resistant cultivars.

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

Red: 'Jhonkeer Van Tets', '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. Two types are needed for cross-pollination. Ask when ordering.

Varieties: CA Haskap: 'Indigo Gem' & 'Tundra'; 'Boreal-Beauty, -Beast and -Blizzard'.

Japanese Haskap: 'Kawai', 'Keiko', 'Solo'. **Pollinizers:** '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 jam.

Varieties: 'Hinnomaki Red' (best), 'Jewel', 'Red George', 'Black Velvet', 'Lepaa Red'.

Elderberries: (*Sambucus canadensis*) Commercial varieties don't ripen at CREC and are not winter hardy. We are searching for hardier selections. Soil conservation plants may do better.

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

US Fruits

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

St. Lawrence Nurseries – *Various hardy fruits.*
Potsdam, NY 13676
315-261-1925
<https://stlawrencenurseries.com/>

Aronia Unlimited – *Aronia*
Sioux Falls, SD 57107
605-728-5180 or 612-822-4040
www.aroniaunlimited.com

Haskap Oregon – *Japanese haskaps*
Hillsboro, OR 97124
503-645-1592
www.haskap-oregon.com

HoneyberryUSA – *Canadian haskaps & cherries*
Bagley, MN 56621 *Juneberries*
218-331-8070
www.honeyberryusa.com

Saskatoon Michigan – *Juneberries*
Williamsburg, Michigan 49690
231-360-0311
<http://www.saskatoonmichigan.com>

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

Grapes

Northeastern Vine Supply
1428 River Rd
West Pawlet, VT 05764
802-287-9311
www.nevinesupply.com

Winterhaven Vineyard and Nursery
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.

AgriForest Bio-Technologies – *varied fruits*
Kelowna, British Columbia
250-764-2224
www.agriforestbiotech.com

PPS Fruit Trees - *Cherries, Haskap, Juneberries*
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
1-306-955-3566 x 3
<https://ppsfruittrees.com>

Riverbend Orchards - *Haskaps*
Portage la Prairie, Manitoba
(204) 870-1140
www.riverbendorchards.ca

Select Seedling Nursery LTD – *Juneberry, haskap*
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
1-800-860-7577
<https://selectseedlingnursery.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
https://www.canr.msu.edu/home_gardening/fruit/

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

Iowa State Extension
<https://hortnews.extension.iastate.edu/>

North Dakota Grape and Wine Association
www.ndgwa.org

Minnesota Grape Growers Association
www.mngrapes.org