



## 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:** (recommended with reservations) 'Hazen', 'Honey Crisp', 'Zestar' and 'Sweet Sixteen'.

**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 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 native 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', 'Nero', 'Raintree Select', possibly 'McKenzie'.

**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.

**Varieties:** 'Carmine Jewel', 'Crimson Passion' (harder to find). **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', 'Blackdown', 'Ben Lomand', 'Champion'.

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

**Honeyberry aka Haskap:** (*Lonicera caerulea* var. *edulis*) A very hardy and unique small shrub with tasty, early-ripening fruit similar to blueberries. No special soil conditions are needed. A circumpolar native, CREC has 6 Russian, 18 Japanese and 4 Canadian cultivars.

**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](mailto:Kathy.Wiederholt@ndsu.edu); 701-652-2951

## **US Fruits**

### **St. Lawrence Nurseries** Apples, Plums, etc.

325 State Highway 345  
Potsdam, NY 13676  
315-265-6739  
[www.sln.potsdam.ny.us](http://www.sln.potsdam.ny.us)

### **One Green World** - Honeyberry, etc.

28696 S. Cramer Rd.  
Molalla OR 97038-8576  
1-877-353-4028 / 1-503-651-3005  
[www.onegreenworld.com](http://www.onegreenworld.com)

### **Raintree Nursery** - Aronia, etc.

391 Butts Road  
Morton, WA 98356  
360-496-6400  
[www.raintreenursery.com](http://www.raintreenursery.com)

### **Whitman Farms** - Currants

3995 Gibson Rd NW  
Salem, OR 97304  
503-585-8728  
[www.whitmanfarms.com](http://www.whitmanfarms.com)

### **HoneyberryUSA** - Canadian haskaps & cherries

19736 350th St; PO Box 512  
Bagley, MN 56621  
Phone: 218-331-8070  
[www.honeyberryusa.com](http://www.honeyberryusa.com)

## **Grapes**

### **Great River Vineyard/Nursery**

35680 Highway 61 Boulevard  
Lake City, MN 55041  
877-345-3531  
[www.greatrivervineyard.com](http://www.greatrivervineyard.com)

### **Northeastern Vine Supply**

2494 Route 140  
Poultney, VT 05764  
802-287-9311  
[www.nevinesupply.com](http://www.nevinesupply.com)

### **Winterhaven Vineyard and Nursery - cuttings**

18103 628th Avenue  
Janesville, MN 56048  
Phone: 507-234-5469  
[www.winterhavengrapevines.com](http://www.winterhavengrapevines.com)

## **Canadian Propagators for Cherry and Haskap**

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

### **Haskap Central Sales Ltd.** c/o Curtis Braaten

P.O. Box 21  
Henribourg, Saskatchewan S0J 1C0  
Phone: (306) 764-2514  
[www.haskapcentral.com](http://www.haskapcentral.com)

### **Prairie Plant Systems Inc.** - SK Cherries, Haskap

Box 19A - RR#5 Juneberries  
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7K 3J8  
Phone: 306-975-1207  
[www.prairieplant.com](http://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](http://www.prairietechpropagation.com)

## **Fruit Information**

### **NDSU-Carrington Research Extension Center**

**Northern Hardy Fruit Evaluation Project**  
[www.ag.ndsu.edu/CarringtonREC](http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/CarringtonREC)

University of Saskatchewan - Saskatoon  
Fruit Program  
[www.fruit.usask.ca](http://www.fruit.usask.ca)

Gardening in Michigan  
Michigan State Extension  
[www.migarden.msu.edu/migarden/fruit](http://www.migarden.msu.edu/migarden/fruit)

Iowa State University  
Iowa State Extension  
[www.extension.iastate.edu/yardgarden/fruits](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/yardgarden/fruits)

Cornell Fruit and Berries  
[www.fruit.cornell.edu](http://www.fruit.cornell.edu)

Minnesota Fruit and Vegetable Growers Assn.  
[www.mfvga.org](http://www.mfvga.org)

North Dakota Grape Growers Association  
[www.ndgga.org](http://www.ndgga.org)

Minnesota Grape Growers Association  
[www.mnrapegrowers.com](http://www.mnrapegrowers.com)