



PLUM

Planting Instructions

Plant plums in full sun in very well-drained soil. Dwarf trees should be planted 12 feet apart and allow 15 feet between rows.

Feeding

Plums benefit from complete granular or spike fertilizer. Feed them in the fall or winter. Do not overfeed with nitrogen. Fertilizer with a high middle number (3-5-3) works well as it promotes fruit and flower production.

Pruning

Young plum trees should be pruned to encourage an upright habit. As they age, prune to develop good strong scaffold branches and an open, spreading habit. Center sprouts and older fruiting wood should be removed on older trees. Asian varieties may require additional thinning, as they tend to be heavy producers. For finer details there are many good pruning books available.

Disease and Pest Control

Insects including scale, mites, and aphids can reduce yields and increase stress on trees. Peach Tree Borer can kill weak and young trees. Leaf Spot and Brown Rot are occasional problems. Timed preventative sprays provide the best protection against most of these pests. See a Spray Schedule for details.

Pollination

Most European plums/prunes are self-fertile, however their yields will generally be better with another tree (even of the same variety) for a pollen source. The Asian plums require another variety of pollen to set fruit. Beauty, Toka, and Satsuma serve as good pollinators for most other varieties.

PRUNE VARIETIES

Brooks (Prune) – Late variety ripens in late September. Large sweet plums taste great fresh and are top quality dried. Originated in Oregon it is the backbone of the Oregon prune industry. Very productive and completely self-fertile.

Early Italian (Prune) – Produces large dark purple plums that are rich in flavor, and very sweet. The fresh yellowish green flesh turns to a red hue when cooked. Great for drying into prunes, fresh eating and canning. Ripens around late August into September.

French Petite (Prune) - Small to Medium sized thin-skinned violet-purple prune, with greenish-yellow nearly freestone flesh. Its flavor is mild and sugary great for eating fresh, drying, desserts and canning. Ripens September.

Shonnard's Nursery, Florist & Landscape

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Stanley (Prune) – Medium size, oval deep purple skin and golden yellow free-stone flesh. Wonderful sweet plum/prune great for fresh eating as well as canning and drying. Stanley has good disease and pest resistance.

PLUM VARIETIES

Beauty – Early Asian variety that ripens in Early August. Medium to large red-yellow plums are juicy and sweet. A good pollinator. Use fresh does not store well.

Blue Damson – Late European variety that ripens in September. Fruit is deep purple-black with amber flesh and a spicy tart flavor. Great for preserves, fresh eating and wine.

Burbank – Asian variety that ripens in August. Fruit has amber-pink skin with super-sweet, excellent flavor. An old garden classic.

Elephant Heart – Late Asian variety ripens mid-September. Very large red-purple plums are very juicy and sweet. Excellent fresh, frozen or canned.

Green Gage – European variety that ripens in late August. Fruit is green, with faint amber flesh. Very sweet and juicy. Great fresh or for jams, but doesn't store well. Self-fertile.

Methley – An early Asian Plum with moderate sized purple red fruits with red flesh. Good pollinator for early varieties.

Mirabelle de Metz – An antique European Plum with exceptionally sweet flavor. Medium sized plums are yellow, sometimes flecked with red.

Santa Rosa – Asian variety that ripens in late July. Large dark red-purple fruit are firm and of a good quality.

Satsuma – Mid-season Asian variety ripens in mid-to-late August. Medium dark red plums are sweet and firm. Excellent flavor fresh or cooked – great for preserves. Good pollinator.

Shiro – Very early Asian variety that ripens in late July. Medium plums are yellow, firm and sweet. Great flavor fresh, cooked, or canned.

Superior – Asian variety. Cherry-red plums ripen July to August. Very hardy tree. A flavorful dessert plum, very sweet and juicy with yellow flesh. Highly productive. Clingstone. A cross between Asian Plum and an American species.

Toka – A hardy fruit tree with showy fragrant white flowers in spring followed by tangy deep red fruit in late summer, great for fresh eating, rather ornamental spreading habit. A cross between Asian Plum and an American species.

Yellow Egg – Late European variety ripens in August. Large golden yellow fruit that is juicy and sweet, thin skinned and freestone when fully ripe. Hardy and productive. Self-fertile.

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PLUM HYBRIDS

Pluots

Pluots are crosses between Asian Plums and Apricots. They require another tree for cross-pollination- either a different variety of Pluot, or an Asian Plum such as Toka or Satsuma.

Pluerries or Cherry Plums

These are crosses between an Asian Plum and a Cherry. They require another tree for cross pollination- either another Cherry Plum or an Asian Plum such as Toka or Satsuma.

Flavor King (Pluot) – Pluot with unique sweet and juicy fruits, combines the better aspects of plums and apricots. Summer Fruiting. Purple skin with amber flesh.

Flavor Supreme (Pluot) – A Pluot, a true treat and taste-test winner, sweet juiciness of plum with apricot accent and texture. Summer fruiting. Mottled yellow skin and crimson flesh.

Nadia – (Pluerrie) A novel fruit experience. Fruit are dark red to Being Cherry black, much larger than a cherry but smaller than most plums. Flavor is distinctly toward the cherry parent, and juice is dark.





PLUM TREE CROSS-POLLINATION CHART

Some plums are considered self-fertile (setting fruit when pollinated with their own pollen), but ALL varieties produce a better yield of fruit with cross pollination.

Fruit set depends on pollination performed by foraging bees. Trees should be planted within 100' feet from one another for best pollination.

**Take care to not apply any pesticide, fungicide or herbicide products on or near fruit trees when they are in bloom.

Plums can be pollinated by most any other plum varieties as long as both are blooming around the same time, and are the same type (Japanese or European).

<u>European:</u>	<u>Pollenizer:</u>	<u>Harvest Time:</u>
Blue Damson	Self-fertile, Green Gage, Stanely	September
Brooks (Prune)	Self-fertile	Late September
Early Italian (Prune)	Self-fertile, Stanley, Green Gage, Damson	August to September
French Petite (Prune)	Self-fertile	September
Green Gage	Self-fertile, Stanley	August
Stanley (Prune)	Damson, Green Gage, Italian	Early September
Yellow Egg	Self-fertile, Green Gage	August
Mirabelle de Metz	Green Gage, Blue Damson	August
<u>Japanese:</u>	<u>Pollenizer:</u>	<u>Harvest Time:</u>
Beauty	Satsuma, Santa Rosa, Toka	Early August
Elephant Heart	Santa Rosa, Beauty, Toka	September
Methley	Self-fertile, Shiro	June to July
Santa Rosa	Shiro, Satsuma, Toka	July
Satsuma	Methley, Santa Rosa, Shiro, Toka	Late July to August
Shiro	Methley, Satsuma, Toka	Late July to August
Toka	Toka,	August to September
<u>Plum Hybrid:</u>	<u>Pollenizer:</u>	<u>Harvest Time:</u>
Nadia (cherry hybrid)	Asian Plum varieties	August
Flavor King (Pluot)	Flavor Supreme, Asian Plum varieties	July to August
Flavor Supreme (Pluot)	Flavor King, Asian Plum varieties	July to August

