

Suggested Fruit Tree Varieties for Colorado

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Apple: major disease problems are fire blight and powdery mildew (also, occasional problems with apple scab and cedar apple rust in eastern Colorado). Disease resistant cultivars are as follows:

- Freedom, Jonafree, Liberty, Prima, Redfree, Pristine (summer apple), Goldrush, & Enterprise (highly resistant to fire blight) – on M-26 or EMLA-26 rootstock.
- Empire & Williams Pride – on M-7A or EMLA-7A rootstock.

Pear: Primary disease problem in Colorado (& elsewhere) is fire blight. The following are listed in decreasing order of fire blight resistance.

- Magness, Potomac, Starking Delicious (= Maxine)
- Harrow Delight, Harvest Queen, Kieffer, Honeysweet
- Moonglow, Luscious
- Seckel, Comice, Anjou
- Asian Pears (Shinko is blight resistant)

Peach: Primary disease problems in Colorado are Cytospora canker, Coryneum blight, & powdery mildew (= peach rusty spot). Different levels of susceptibility to peach rusty spot (apple powdery mildew) are known; some varieties are quite susceptible, others only rarely so. The list on the back side of this page (Table 1) provides information on rusty spot susceptibility for some of the older peach cultivars (it is taken from the Colorado Tree Fruit Pest & Crop Management Guide). Cultivars with better bud hardiness (better winter hardiness and spring frost survival potential) are:

Contender, Cresthaven, Garnet Beauty, Harcrest, Madison, PF-24C, PF22-007, PF25, Redskin, Reliance, Summer Serenade, & Autumn Star. All can be grown on a number of peach rootstocks (peach seedling, Lovell, Halford, Baily, Tennessee Natural, etc.).

Cherry: Primary disease problems are Cherry Rasp Leaf virus (CRLV), Cytospora canker, X-Disease. Other potential disease problems include powdery mildew, bacterial canker and Prunus Necrotic Ringspot virus (PNRSV). No outright resistance is available for any of these, but Mahaleb rootstock is hypersensitive to X-Disease infection such that any infected scion on Mahaleb will collapse and die suddenly as the connecting cells between the scion and the rootstock die. New dwarfing rootstocks are also now available and can provide trees that range from 50% to 100% the size of a standard tree on Mazzard rootstock. A Gisela 5 rootstock will produce a tree roughly 50% of Mazzard; a Gisela 6 rootstock produces a tree roughly 90% of a Mazzard rootstock tree. Both are highly precocious, inducing fruit production earlier than on a standard Mazzard or Mahaleb rootstock. Colt rootstock is slower to show symptoms of CRLV, but is not immune to this disease. Many new self-fertile cherry cvs. are now available: Sweetheart, Skeena, Lapins, Sumleta Sonata, Stella, Sandra Rose, Index, Santana, Columbia, & Benton are some examples. Gold is a more cold hardy cv (not self-fertile). For tart cherries, Surefire is a new NYAES release with late bloom and resistance to spring frost; Balaton (a very high quality, large fruited, tart-sweet cv.) blooms 1 - 2 days after Montmorency. For more information, see the 2004 W. Colo. Horticultural Society Convention talk, "Cherry Varieties, Rootstocks, & Training Systems (Azarenko)." A 1.7 MB PDF file is available in the WCHS Convention Archives; many of the talks from the most recent convention are posted annually on their website: <http://www.coloradofruit.org> and prior presentations are archived on CD.

Table 1. Peach cultivars susceptible to fruit mildew (rusty spot, caused by apple powdery mildew).

Cultivar	Susceptibility	Cultivar	Susceptibility
Early Red Haven	5	Blake	2
Golden Jubilee	5	Cresthaven	1
Havis	5	Early Loring	1
Jefferson	5	Encore	1
Jersey Glo	5	Georgia Belle	1
Jim Wilson	5	Glohaven	1
LaPremier	5	Harbelle	1
Loring	5	Jim Dandee	1
Redkist	5	July Elberta	1
Redskin	5	Newhaven	1
Rio-Oso-Gem	5	Redglobe	1
Summer Beaut (white peach)	5	Redhaven	1
Summer Queen	5	Reliance	1
Sweet Sue	5	Roza	1
Washington	5	Topaz	1
Gleason Elberta	4	Triogem	1
Flamecrest	3		
Flavorcrest	3		
Suncrest	3		

Susceptibility rating:

- 1 = low susceptibility, occasional problem only, fungicide sprays not needed for mildew control;
- 3 = moderately susceptible, may require fungicide sprays if near mildew susceptible apples and humid weather conditions occur;
- 5 = highly susceptible, routine problem if planted near Jonathan, Rome, or other highly mildew susceptible apples. Requires a minimum of shuck split and/or shuck fall fungicide sprays plus possible additional sprays if humid weather conditions occur prior to pit hardening.