

Neighborhood Perennials Project

Suggested Plant List and Planning Guide

The following plants are among those potentially available to NPP participants. They are all proven to grow well in our region. When selecting plants, keep in mind two additional choices: variety and rootstock - please see the following Planning Guide for more information. If there is a perennial plant that you really enjoy eating and it is not on the list, let us know and we can discuss the possibility of finding a locally – adapted variety. Please keep in mind that many fruit trees and shrubs cannot be grown in isolation or they will not be pollinated and produce fruit. Those plants with a ^ indicate that they need more than one individual for pollination. So, if you request a pawpaw tree, for example, make sure you have space to accommodate two trees. More information about pollination and spacing requirements are also on the following pages in the Planning Guide.

**native to Kentucky*

^requires more than one tree for pollination

Fruit Trees

- Apple^
- Asian Pear^
- European Pear^
- Mulberry*
- Persimmon*
- Pawpaw**^
- Jujube / Chinese Date

Cane Fruits and Berries

- Black raspberry*
- Red raspberry
- Blackberry
- Blueberry^
- Elderberry**^
- Strawberry^
- Gooseberry
- Currant
- Aronia / Chokeberry**^
- Hardy Fig
- Hardy Kiwi / Kiwiberry^

Nut Trees

- Black walnut**^
- Hardy English walnut^
- Hazelnuts^
- Chestnuts^
- Heartnut

Pollinator-Friendly Perennial Flowers

- Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)
- Swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*)
- Common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*)
- Butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*)
- New England aster (*Aster novae-angliae*)
- Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*)
- Tall tickseed (*Coreopsis tripteris*)
- Purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*)
- Wild bergamot/bee balm (*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Black-eyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*)
- Blue sage (*Salvia azurea*)
- Canada goldenrod (*Solidago canadensis*)
- Ohio goldenrod (*Solidago ohioensis*)

Perennial Vegetables

- Asparagus (crowns)
- Perennial Kale (transplants)
- Perennial Arugula (transplants)
- Jerusalem Artichoke* (transplants)
- Good King Henry (transplants)
- Chives (transplants)
- Sorrel (transplants)

NPP Planning Guide

What is rootstock? Fruit and nut trees are often propagated by grafting, where wood from a tasty, productive variety is grafted onto the roots of a hardier, disease-resistant variety. The rootstock also controls the size of the tree. This is the case for all European fruits (apples, pears, peaches, plums, etc). A full-grown wild apple tree gets very large and is extremely difficult to harvest and keep pruned, so most apple trees are grafted onto dwarf and semi-dwarf rootstocks. Below, we describe the pros/cons of our available rootstocks.

Dwarf rootstock – makes a mature tree of about 12 feet. It has a shallower root system, so it needs to be staked with a sturdy post and is less resilient to inclement weather. But, it will produce fruit earlier than a semi-dwarf or full-size tree. 10-14 ft spacing.

Semi-dwarf rootstock- makes a mature tree of about 15-17 feet if unpruned. This rootstock will live longer and be more drought and wind tolerant but takes more time to establish itself before producing heavily. 14-18 ft spacing.

Why does pollination matter? Plants need to be pollinated to set seed and make fruit, but there are multiple ways this can happen.

Pollination not required: some fruits, such as persimmons, only require pollination to set seed but will still produce good fruit without pollination. Therefore, another individual is not required for fruit or nut production.

Self-fertile: flowers that can be pollinated by themselves or another flower on the same plant, therefore another individual is not required for fruit or nut production.

Requires cross-pollination by another individual: flowers that must be pollinated by another plant of the same species. This usually applies to more wild-type plants such as black walnuts. Another individual of the same species is required for fruit or nut production.

Requires cross-pollination by an individual of another variety: flowers that must be pollinated by another plant of the same species but a *different variety*. Plants of the same variety are often clones and are therefore are not genetically different enough to cross-pollinate each other. For example, two Enterprise apples cannot pollinate each other. Therefore, you need 2 individuals of different varieties for fruit or nut production (for example an Enterprise apple and a Grimes Golden apple). Importantly, not all varieties of the same species can cross-pollinate each other, so pay close attention to the "Pollination" column below to select compatible varieties. This is because a mismatch between 2 varieties can occur when they do not flower at the same time. For example, Liberty and Enterprise apples are theoretically able to pollinate each other, but their bloom times do not overlap.

What do we mean by spacing? The spacing indicated in the chart below refers to the distance from the base of the tree or shrub to anything else, including another tree, powerlines, a building, etc. Small plants can often be planted within these boundaries.

Other things to consider when selecting plants:

- Apples can be pollinated by wild and ornamental crab apples if they are flowering at the same time.
- Pears can be pollinated by ornamental Bradford pears if they are flowering at the same time.
- Individual berry canes do not produce large amounts of fruit. Consider planting a large patch if you want the fruit to freeze or process.
- It is possible to plant "large" trees, such as mulberry, in a small space by pruning them back in the summer. I would not recommend this if you are looking for something low-maintenance.
- European fruits, including apples, pears, and plums, tend to flower earlier than American fruits. This makes them more susceptible to losing all their flowers if there is a late frost.
- While large fruit and nut trees often need 15-20 foot spacing, you can plant smaller trees and shrubs between them. For example, some native fruiting shrubs such as gooseberry, currant, aronia, and elderberry are tolerant to light shade and could complement your large trees.

Species	Variety	Size	Pollination	Varietal Info	Spacing
Black Walnut	Native variety	Large tree	Another black walnut tree		20-25 ft
English Walnut	Locally-adapted variety	Large tree	1-2 other English walnut tree	Heat tolerant compared to typical English walnuts	20-25 ft
Chinese Chestnut		Large trees	Another Chinese chestnut tree	Resistant to Chestnut blight	20-30 ft
Heartnut		Large tree	Another heartnut tree	Hardy, productive	20-25 ft
Hazelnut	Theta	Tree-like shrub	Jefferson or Gamma	Similar to Jefferson	6-10 ft
Hazelnut	Gamma	Tree-like shrub	Theta or Jefferson	Similar to Jefferson	6-10 ft
Apple	Enterprise	Dwarf to semi-dwarf tree	Grimes Golden and Suncrisp	Highly disease resistant with late bloom time	See rootstock info
Apple	Liberty	Dwarf to semi-dwarf tree	Grimes Golden	One of the most disease-resistant varieties; blooms late	See rootstock info
Apple	Winesap (Stayman)	Dwarf to semi-dwarf tree	Sterile pollen; Enterprise and Grimes Golden	An heirloom variety that does well in KY; highly disease resistant	See rootstock info
Apple	Suncrisp	Dwarf to semi-dwarf tree	Enterprise	Modern apple variety	See rootstock info
Apple	Grimes Golden	Dwarf to semi-dwarf tree	Self-fertile but better pollination with Enterprise	Antique variety from WV, circa 1830. Resistant to	See rootstock info

				cedar apple rust and fire blight	
European Pear	Maxine	Semi-dwarf tree	Most other pear varieties	Mid-season pear; similar to store-bought Bartlett; disease-resistant	15-18 feet
European Pear	Ayers	Semi-dwarf tree	Partly self-fertile but better with Moonglow or Asian Pears	Early pear; resistant to fireblight and other pear diseases; does not keep well	15-18 ft
European Pear	Moonglow	Semi-dwarf tree	Pollinated by Ayers and Asian Pears	Mid-season pear; similar to store-bought Bartlett; resistant to fireblight	15-18 ft
European Pear	Magness	Semi-dwarf tree	Most other pear varieties	Late-season pear; keeps well; highly disease resistant	15-18 ft
European Pear	Potomac	Semi-dwarf tree	Most other European pear varieties	Mid-season pear; very disease resistant; bears fruit young	15-18 ft
Asian Pear	Shinko	Semi-dwarf tree	Other Asian pears	Mid-season pear; highly fireblight resistant	15-18 ft
Asian Pear	Hosui	Semi-dwarf tree	Other Asian pears	Mid-season pear; vigorous and resistant to fireblight and pear scab	15-18 ft
Mulberry	Illinois Everbearing	A large tree or coppiced shrub	Does not require pollination	Very long berry season; a cultivated variety of the native mulberry with larger, sweeter fruits	30 ft for the tree, or 10-15 ft shrub
American / Asian Persimmon Hybrid	Rosseyanka	Medium to large tree	Does not require pollination	Large fruits, cold hardy, American persimmon flavor	20-25 ft
American Persimmon	Wonderful	Medium to large tree	Does not require pollination	Large fruits, late ripening	20-25 ft
Pawpaw – Spring planting only	Nyomi's Delicious	Small to medium tree	Other pawpaw varieties	Variety local to Berea	8-15 ft

Pawpaw – Spring planting only	Golden Moon	Small to medium tree	Other pawpaw varieties	Variety local to Berea	8-15 ft
Jujube/ Chinese Date	Lang	Large shrub to small tree	Self-pollinating but better with another variety	Large, round fruits; best eaten fresh	8-15 ft
Jujube/ Chinese Date	LI	Large shrub to small tree	Self-pollinating but better with another variety	Large, pear-shaped fruits; best dried like dates	8 – 15 ft
Che fruit / Mandarin Melon Berry		Medium shrub to small tree	Self-pollinating	Resistant to insects and most diseases	10-15 ft
Black Raspberry	Jewel Black	Vigorous vine/shrub	Self-pollinating	Anthrachnose resistant; yields larger berries than the wild variety	2-4 ft
Red Raspberry	Heritage Everbearing	Vigorous vine/shrub	Self-pollinating		2-4 ft
Blackberry	Natchez	Erect vine or hedge	Self-pollinating	Thornless, earliest blackberry	2-4 ft
Blackberry	Arapaho	Compact bush/vine	Self-pollinating but better with another variety	Thornless, early season producer	2-4 ft
Blueberry – Northern Highbush	Blueray	Small – Large shrub	Duke, Bluecrop, Patriot	Early – midseason ripening	4-6 ft
Blueberry – Northern Highbush	Duke	Small – Large shrub	Bluecrop, Bluejay, and Patriot	Very popular, high yielding, early ripening	4-6 ft
Blueberry – Northern Highbush	Bluecrop	Small – large shrub	Duke, Patriot, and Bluejay	Large, mid-season blueberry, very common	4-6 ft
Elderberry	York	Large shrub	Other elderberry varieties	Can thrive in poorly-drained soils; larger, earlier ripening fruits than wild type	8-10 ft
Elderberry	Nova	Large shrub	Other elderberry varieties	Can thrive in poorly-drained soils; larger, earlier ripening fruits than wild type	8-10 ft
Strawberry	Earliglow		Self-pollinating	Plant in early spring/summer; Resistant to Red	8 – 12 in

				stele, leaf scorch, intermediate resistance to verticillium wilt	
Gooseberry	Hinnomaki	Small shrub	Self-pollinating		3 ft
Hardy Fig	Chicago Hardy	Medium to Large Shrub	Does not require pollination	Very productive and cold-tolerant	8-15 ft
Hardy Kiwi	Anna	Vigorous vine	Requires a male hardy kiwi	Resistant to pests, disease and cold; needs a trellis	
Native Passionfruit/ Maypop		Vigorous vine	Self-fertile but does better with another individual	A cultivar of wild maypop with larger and sweeter fruits; needs a trellis	
Currants		Small shrub	Self-fertile	Similar to gooseberry	3 ft
Aronia/ Chokeberry	Native species	Small shrub	Another Aronia plant	Very disease and pest resistant	3 ft