**Comparison of Fruit Plants for Maryland Gardens**

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| **Tree Fruits** |
| Common name | Genus/species | Origin | Grow without pesticides? | Notes |
| Apple\* | *Malus domestica**Malus pumila* | Europe/Asia Minor | Difficult | Select disease-resistant cultivars; train highly dwarfed trees on wires  |
| European pear\* | *Pyrus communis* | Europe | Somewhat difficult |  |
| Asian pear | *Pyrus pyrifolia* | Asia | Yes | Fruits 2-3 years after planting; susceptible to fireblight |
| Peach/nectarine | *Prunus persica* | Asia | Difficult | 10-12 year life max; brown rot is major disease |
| Apricot | *Prunus armeniaca* | Asia | Somewhat difficult | Fruits only once or twice in five years due to early flowers killed by frost |
| Sweet cherry\* | *Prunus avium* | Europe/Asia | Somewhat difficult | Brown rot is major problem. Look for Gisela (German) dwarfing rootstocks |
| Tart cherry | *Prunus cerasus* | Europe/Asia | Yes | More reliable (less tasty for birds) |
| European plum | *Prunus domestica* | Europe | Somewhat difficult | Brown rot is a major disease of plums |
| Japanese plum\* | *Prunus salicina* | Asia | Somewhat difficult | Juicier but more difficult to grow than European |
| Pluot/aprium | *PlumX apricot crosses* | U.S. | Somewhat difficult | “Dinosaur eggs” are pluots (higher % of plum parentage) |
| Fig | *Ficus carica* | Asia | Yes | ‘Celeste’ good in containers |
| Native persimmon\* | *Diospyros virginiana* | North America | Yes | 30-60 ft. in height when mature (or taller!) |
| Asian persimmon | *Diospyros kaki* | Asia | Yes | Good ornamental qualities |
| Paw paw\* | *Asimina triloba* | North America | Yes | 10-25 ft.; can reach 40-50 ft. |
| Serviceberry | *Amelanchier spp.* | North America | Yes | Many species; good wildlife plant. Some are shrubs, of all sizes; trees can reach 20-25 ft. |
| Mulberry | *Morus spp.* | Asia and N.A. | Yes | Red, white, and black types; 3 species are variable |
| **Small Fruits** |
| Common name | Genus/species | Origin | Grow without pesticides? | Notes |
| Strawberry | *Fragaria X* | N.A./S.A. cross | Yes | June-bearing and day-neutral are best |
| Blueberry\* | *Vaccinium spp.* | 7 native MD species | Yes | Northern highbush, Southern highbush, and rabbiteye will all grow in MD. |
| Grape | *Vitis labrusca* *Vitis vinifera*  | North AmericaAsia | Somewhat difficult | Don’t plant ‘Concord’. Many good seedless table grapes available. |
| Blackberry | *Rubus ursinus* | North America | Yes…but | Many choices; trailing, thornless cultivars can get out of control |
| Raspberry | *Rubus idaeus and Rubus spp.* | North America | Yes…but | Many choices; primocane-bearing are easiest to manage |
| Currant | *Ribes spp.* | Europe and North America | Yes | Easy, underutilized plants. Red, white, and black cultivars. Plant more than one cultivar with black currant. |
| Gooseberry | *Ribes spp.* | Europe N.A. | Yes | Need 2 different cultivars, like currants |
| Jostaberry | *Ribes nidigrolaria* | Europe | Yes | Vigorous cross between black currant and gooseberry |
| Hardy kiwi | *Actinidia spp.* | Asia | Yes | Rampant grower; need at least 2 plants |
| Elderberry\*\* | *Sambucus* | North America | Yes | Need 2 different cultivars; fairly large plants |
| Beach plum\* | *Prunus maratima* | East coast, U.S. | Yes? | Wild, native plum; unreliable fruiting. For the adventurous gardener.  |
| Black chokeberry (Aronia) | Photinia melanocarpa  | North America | Yes | Astringent but healthful fruit. Good for juice and jelly. Good wildlife plant. |

\*These fruits usually require two cultivars (cross-pollination) for best fruit set.

Prepared by Jon Traunfeld, Extension Specialist; 10/12