

Common Elderberry *Sambucus nigra*

Pollination:

Some individual plants can be self fruitful, but need two varieties to produce harvestable crop. York and Adams good cultivar choices.

Not completely understood; thought to be wind pollinated with some insect assistance but not honeybees. (Univ. Of Missouri Center for Agroforestry)

Propagation:

Suckers, cuttings and from seed.

Pruning:

Remove all flowers during establishment year.

Depending on production goal, two possible approaches:

1) Prune out canes 3 years old, and older wood in winter. Remove dead/diseased stems. Cut back weak canes to strong wood.

2) Cut bush down in winter, or coppice, to grow new shoots every year. Larger berries grow on new shoots typically. Coppicing can establish uniform ripening and harvest timing among elder groves.

Wild American Plum *Prunus americana*

Pollination:

Need two different trees nearby to pollinate and produce fruit.

Propagation:

Can be grown from seed, root cuttings, dormant hardwood or soft wood cuttings, and suckers transplant well. Makes good root stock for grafting other plum/peach varieties.

Pruning:

Pruning out aggressively growing suckers can be high maintenance with this species, which is why using the aggressive suckers as transplant stock can turn this problem into an opportunity.

Prune for modified central leader or open vase form.

Best pruning time is spring for young tree, mid summer for mature tree.

Branch pruning to increase production when dormant season.

Remove all weak, dead, and diseased wood when pruning.

Beach Plum *Prunus maritima*

Pollination:

Plant two or more of same variety for most production.

Propagation:

Can be grown from seed, root cuttings, and semi-hardwood stem cuttings.

Pruning:

Annual pruning and training should be done when the plant is dormant in late winter or early spring.

Maintain size and shape to a central leader or open-center form for easier harvest and keeps fruit off ground.

Remove all weak, dead, and diseased wood when pruning.

Biennial fruit production is not unique to beach plum; can be partially managed by thinning the crop load through pruning.

Removal of 25-30 percent of the fruiting wood decreases the crop load, stimulates new shoot growth that will produce fruit.

Black Chokeberry *Aronia melanocarpa*

Pollination:

Flowers are monoecious (having both male and female organs), but plant in multiples for maximum pollination. Small bees (mason and mining bees) are pollinators.

Propagation:

Can be grown from seed, also softwood cuttings without rooting hormone. Sucker division and replant in dormant season.

Pruning:

After 5 years, remove canes over 1" diameter annually.

Year 8: prune to limit height. Continue reduced height operations, every 4-5 years.

Pruning and training should be done when the plant is dormant in late winter or early spring.

Remove all weak, dead, and diseased wood when pruning.

High Bush Blueberry *Vaccinium corymbosum*

Pollination:

While it is not necessary to grow more than one variety, having two or more varieties will permit cross-pollination, which may increase fruit set and yields.

Propagation:

Usually propagated from softwood or hardwood cuttings. Take softwood in late spring, hardwood in dormant season.

Pruning:

Remove flowers for first two springs to encourage root growth and vegetative development.

Leave few small flower clusters in 3rd season. Then allow to set full crop in 4th-5th season.

Pruning and training should be done when the plant is dormant in late winter or early spring.

In first two seasons, just remove all weak, dead, and diseased wood when pruning.

Year 3 on:

Prune out weak, low growing and diseased canes;

Prune out any canes older than 6 years old.

A mature blueberry plant should have six to ten healthy canes varying in age from one to six years old.

Most fruit produced on vigorous one-year-old shoots on healthy two- to five-year-old canes. The fruit buds on these shoots are large and teardrop-shaped. Each bud will produce a cluster of five to eight flowers. The shoots also have smaller, pointed vegetative buds that will produce leaves

American Hazel *Corylus americana*

Pollination:

Flowers are monoecious (having male and female organs) but plant in multiples for maximum pollination. Wind pollinated.

Propagation:

Can be grown from seed, and shoots aka suckers can be cut away from the mother tree and replanted on proper spacing.

Pruning:

Pruning in winter for vigorous growth; pruning spring/summer to remove suckers and low limbs.

First winter: remove all branches but 3-5 main scaffold limbs that are equally spaced.

Second season: prune any competing branches.

If secondary limbs show narrow angles, should remove them.

As shrub matures, renewal pruning will be needed. In early spring, remove largest heaviest canes all the way to the ground. 1-5 branches can be removed each year depending on shrub size.

If need to reduce height, do same as renewal pruning in early spring.

Remove all weak, dead, and diseased wood when pruning.

Paw Paw *Asimina triloba*

Pollination:

Flowers are monoecious (having male and female organs) but plant different varieties for maximum pollination. Flies are pollinators (use carcass or manure to attract if necessary).

Propagation:

Can be grown from seed.

Pruning:

Remove all weak, dead, and diseased wood when pruning.

Bears fruit on prior season's wood. Blossoms in singles.

Prune for central leader. Remove narrow angled branches, with goal of open branching with strong crotch angles.

Late winter/early spring best pruning time.

Common Persimmon *Diospyros virginiana*

Pollination:

Need to plant in multiples for cross pollination. Tree is dioecious, meaning an individual tree's flower either only has a male or female organ.

Propagation:

Can be grown from seed.

Pruning:

Bears fruit on current season's shoot growth (branches).

First few seasons, prune shoots with goal of creating pyramid shape with 3-5 main limbs (scaffolds) at 1' intervals, starting 3' above ground. Prune into Y or a vase shaped form.

In 2nd year, pick two strong lateral branches 2-3' off head of each primary scaffold and well distributed around tree.

Most are topped each year, but some allowed to spread into umbrella shape.

When mature trees' yield drops, hand thin fruit early summer 3 weeks after flowering — leave 1-4 fruits per shoot.

Remove all weak, dead, and diseased wood when pruning.

At the end of 4 years of growth, a tree should have three to four primary scaffolds at the head with five to seven secondary scaffolds 4 to 6 feet above the ground. At 7 to 10 feet above the ground additional branches should fill the periphery of the tree top.

Late winter/early spring best pruning time.

Serviceberry *Amelanchier* spp. (*arborea*, *canadensis*, *laevis*)

Pollination:

Flowers are monoecious (having male and female organs), but species is only partly self-fertile. Planting in numbers boosts pollination and production of pomes (berries).

Propagation:

Can be grown from early spring hardwood cuttings, or from seed planted in either fall or spring.

Pruning:

Can prune out a few branches if needed in late winter (before buds begin to swell) for light penetration in canopy and enhanced branch structure (prevent crossing branches).

Don't prune out too much young growth. Plants fruit on wood from previous year.