

This list is derived directly from the Agroforestry Research Trust catalogue 2009-10, from which I've selected varieties that I think may be well worth trialing in northern UK climates. Please consult the full catalogue (www.agroforestry.co.uk) for up-to-date price information, plus a seed catalogue. Other suppliers may be available!

Apples

M27 is very dwarfing, making a tree about 1.5-2 m (5-6½ ft) high. Requires staking where exposed and good growing conditions.

M26 is a useful all-round semi-dwarf rootstock, making a bush tree growing 2.5-3.5 m (8-12 ft) high, also good for cordons. Requires staking for the first few years.

MM106 is slightly more vigorous than M26, making a bush or half standard around 4 m (13 ft) high, also good for cordons. Doesn't usually need staking.

Unless self-fertile, all varieties require cross pollination; choose a variety with the same or an adjacent flower group (eg. 'B' in column 'fg' will be pollinated by A, B or C).

Late summer dessert apples – ripening July/August

Dessert apple Pick Use 27 26 106 fg Description

Discovery late Aug Aug-Sept C medium round crisp fruit, good flavour. Tree a good cropper, tolerates late spring frosts.

Laxtons Epicure August Aug-Sept C Stripy fruit with an excellent aromatic flavour. Tree of low vigour, frost tolerant., part self fertile. Also known as 'Epicure'.

Early autumn dessert apples

Dessert apple Pick Use 27 26 106 fg Description

James Grieve Sept Sept-Oct C fruit with a sharp, juicy flavour, also used for cooking and juice. Tree a heavy reliable cropper, part self fertile.

Katy Sept Sept-Oct C red striped & flushed fruit with a good strawberry flavour, good for juice. Tree vigorous, good cropper, tolerant of late frosts.

Lord Lambourne mid Sept Sept-Oct C medium fruits, good refreshing sweet-acid flavour. Tree a good cropper.

Scrumptious* Sept-Oct Sept-Oct C fruit rosy red, thin skinned, good flavour, hangs well on tree. Tree self-fertile, hardy, compact.

Worcester

Pearmain

Sept Sept-Oct C fruits red flushed, flesh firm, sweet strawberry flavour, good for juice. Tree heavy cropping, reliable.

Late autumn dessert apples – ripening October, keeping until Nov/Dec

Dessert apple Pick Use 27 26 106 fg Description

Egremont Russet early Oct Oct-Dec B medium russetted fruits, good nutty aromatic flavour. Tree compact, good cropper, frost tol.

Forge Sept Sept-Dec+

D fruit medium size, conical, orange flushed; flesh sweet-acid, mellowing. A reliable good cropper, also used in cooking/cider.

Greensleeves* October Oct-Dec B medium size fruit with a juicy, firm flesh of good flavour. Tree of low vigour, heavy cropping. Used for juice & cider too. Partly self-fertile.

Red Falstaff* Oct Oct-Dec C fruit of very good fruity sweet-acid flavour, good for juice & cider. Tree weeping, heavy cropping.

Midwinter dessert apples – ripening November, keeping until Jan/Feb

Dessert apple Pick Use 27 26 106 fg Description

Fiesta* late Sept Oct-Jan+ D fruit medium, flushed & striped red, hangs well on tree when ripe. Juicy, crisp, rich flavour. Tree mod. Vigorous, heavy cropping, tolerant of late frosts. Partly self-fertile.

Spring dessert apples – keeping until March-June

Dessert apple pick use 27 26 106 fg Description

D'Arcy Spice October Nov-May D fruit with a spicy, nutty, aromatic flavour; good for making juice. Tree of moderate vigorous, late frost tolerant.
Longkeeper October Oct-June C fruit large, pale yellow; flesh firm, sweet-acid. Tree very hardy with reddish shoots.

Summer & autumn cooking apples

Cooking apple pick use 27 26 106 fg Description

Grenadier mid Aug Aug-Nov C fruits large, greenish-yellow, cooks to a puree. Tree moderately vigorous, heavy cropping.

Late keeping cooking apples

Cooking apple pick use 27 26 106 fg Description

Annie Elizabeth early Oct Nov-June E fruit large, greenish-yellow. Tree vigorous, upright, tolerant of late spring frosts.

Bramley's

Seedling

early Oct Oct-

March

D very large greenish fruits, very good cooked, good for juice.

Tree vigorous, spreading.

Crab Apples

The following are very good pollinators as well as being beautiful ornamental trees in flower and fruit. The fruits of course make good jelly, sauces etc.

Variety Description

Golden Hornet Flowers large, white flushed pink. Large crops of bright yellow fruit. Tree upright, spreading with age.

John Downie White flowers followed by large bright orange and red fruits. Vigorous upright tree, arching later. Best in East of UK.

Red Sentinel Flowers white, fruits deep red, borne in large bunches, hanging well into the winter.

Blue bean

Decaisnea fargesii is a large deciduous shrub from Western China, growing to 5 m (16 ft) high – 3 m in 10 years. It bears

huge pinnate leaves, yellow flowers and remarkable metallic-blue seed pods the shape of broad bean pods, with a sweet

edible pulp within – melon flavoured. Likes a moist site in sun or part shade; hardy to –20°C.

Plants are 30-60 cm, bare rooted, £10.00 each.

Cherries

Colt rootstock produces sweet cherry trees 12-16 ft (4-5m) high / sour cherries 10-12 ft (3-3.5 m) high.

Gisela rootstock is dwarfing, producing sweet cherries 8-10 ft (2.4-3 m) high / sour cherries 6-7 ft (1.8-2.1 m) high.

Some varieties require cross pollination – see notes below.

12

Variety Colt Gisela Description

Celeste Very early ripening. Fruit large, dark red, excellent quality. Tree naturally very compact, self fertile.

Lapins

(Cherokee)

large dark red fruit, flesh sweet, juicy, good flavour. Vigorous, upright, self-fertile, heavy cropping tree.

Ripens late July. Canadian bred variety.

Merton Glory Early ripening, a very large, sweet, heart-shaped white cherry. Tree compact

Morello sour cherry for cooking. Fruits large, dark reddish-black, excellent for jams & cooking. Tree small, self-fertile. Ripens late July.

Penny Very late ripening. Fruit black, firm, large.

Rainier Large firm fruit, yellowish-orange, not taken so readily by birds

Stella fruit large, dark red, sweet and juicy. Very reliable cropper. Self-fertile. Ripens late July.

Summer Sun Fruit firm, good flavour, reddish-black. A compact tree well suited to colder areas; self-fertile. Origin: Norwich.

Sunburst fruit large, black, sweet and very well flavoured. Self fertile. Ripens late July. Canadian bred variety.

Sweetheart Fruit firm with a good flavour, tree very precocious. Self-fertile. Ripens early September. Canadian.

Sylvia Fruit large, dark red, naturally hidden from rain and birds by large leaves. Very compact variety.

Vega Fruit very large, white (so the birds won't take them as quickly!), very good flavour. Ripens late July.

Pollinated by Lapins or Stella. Canadian bred variety.

Cherry plums

These are small trees yellow or red plum-sized fruits which are edible, sweet and juicy; they may hang on the tree until

October. Good in hedges and windbreaks. Also an early source of nectar and pollen for honey & bumble bees.

Bare root maidens or two year trees on St Julien A or Pixy rootstocks.

St Julien A rootstock produces bushes or half standards 3.5-4m (12-14 ft) high, and is also suitable for fans.

Pixy is a semi-dwarfing rootstock producing bushes 2.7-3.6 m (9-12 ft) high.

Variety Pixy St J Description

First Early season. Fruit small, round, very good flavour. Ripens very early, July. Plum flowering group A.

Golden

Sphere*

Fruit large, translucent yellow; flesh firm, crunchy, good flavour. Tree hardy and late flowering for a cherry plum. Ripens August.

Gypsy* Fruit large, dark red ; flesh orange, rich sweet flavour. Tree hardy and late flowering for a cherry plum.

Ripens August.

Ruby* Fruit very large, sweet pach-flavoured dark red flesh. Tree very upright, self fertile.

Cornelian cherry

small tree/ large shrub (*Cornus mas*) from Central and Southern Europe, quite at home in Britain. The cherry-like fruits are edible (raw, cooked or dried) with a plum flavour when fully ripe; flowers are used as a flavouring and seeds have been used to make a coffee. Tolerates deep shade, though fruits best in sun; hardy to –23°C. Best fruiting is by cross pollination with a different selection or seedling plant.

Variety Description Size / Price

Elegant* Bears large, pear-shaped, sweet, bright red fruits. Originates from the Ukraine. 30-60 cm, Bare rooted £12.00

Gourmet Bears large, bright red, slightly pear-liked fruits and the sweetest taste amongst all cultivars.

Tree healthy and robust. Grafted plants.

40-80 cm, Bare rooted

£19.20

Jolico Has very large fruits (three times the weight of wild trees') and heavy crops of fruit. Grafted plants.

40-80 cm, Bare rooted

£19.20

Japanese *Cornus officinalis* is closely related to *C.mas*, and also grows into a large shrub or small tree with early yellow flowers and edible cherry-like fruits. Very rare.

30-60 cm, Bare rooted

£12.00

Yellow* Bears good sized yellow fruits which are less likely to be taken by birds. Originates from the Ukraine.

30-60 cm, Bare rooted

£12.00

13

Damsons and bullaces

Bare root maidens or two year trees on St Julien A or Pixy rootstocks. **£14.85 each.**

St Julien A rootstock produces bushes or half standards 3.5-4m (12-14 ft) high, and is also suitable for fans.

Pixy is a semi-dwarfing rootstock producing bushes 2.7-3.6 m (9-12 ft) high.

Some of the varieties below require cross pollination; choose a variety with the same or an adjacent flower group (eg. 'B')

will be pollinated by A, B or C). sf = self-fertile, psf = partially self-fertile, ss = self-sterile. Bullaces and damsons are

hardier and thriftier than plums and are rarely troubled by diseases.

See gages and plums also for cross pollination possibilities.

Early summer damson – August

Variety pick/use flowering Pixy St J Description

Blue Violet Aug D sf Fruit sweet, plum-like, dark blue-black with a bloom. Originates from the Lake District.

Late summer damsons – August/September

Variety pick/use flowering Pixy St J Description

Farleigh Damson Sept D psf fruit firm, richly flavoured. Tree compact, densely branched, good in hedges, very heavy cropping.

Shropshire Prune Sept D sf Culinary damson, making a small compact tree; fruits medium sized, rich flavour.

Autumn damsons – September/October

Variety pick/use flowering Pixy St J Description

Dittisham Damson Sept-Oct sf Sharp flavoured fruit, excellent for jam. A small tough tree from S.Devon.

Golden Bullace Oct C Fruit golden yellow on tree of moderate vigour.

Langley Bullace Oct C sf A damson (not a bullace!) with blue-black large fruits of good flavour.

Tree vigorous, upright, heavy cropping.

Merryweather

Damson

Sept-Oct D Fruit large, dark blue, good flavour. Reliable heavy cropper, also used cooked.

Devon sorb apple

A very rare small tree native to Devon in the UK, perhaps a hybrid of wild service tree and whitebeam. It bears large

bunches of russet-red fruits, 12-15 mm (0.5-0.6") across which are edible when ripe or after a frost, with a medlar-like date

flavour. Any soil and sun or part shade; hardy to -15°C or more. 'Devon Beauty' is our selection, an especially heavy and early fruiter.

Sorbus devoniensis 'Devon Beauty' – bare-rooted grafted plants, 50-120 cm, £15.00.

Elderberries

In addition to a few ornamental cultivars, we are offering a selection of European and American elder cultivars which have

been selected for their good fruiting ability and fruit size and quality. If flowers are the crop, then they (of course) produce

extra large crops of flowers too. European elders come from Denmark, Norway, Eastern Europe and England and are

grown commercially in several countries. Plants are supplied as bare-rooted, 20-50 cm plants, price £7.70 each.

Variety Description

Bradet Eastern European cultivar with large fruits and high yields.

Cae Rhos Iligwy Fruits are large, green, with a gooseberry flavour. Tree has grey bark.

Donau Heavily fruiting Austrian selection, used in commercial orchards.

Godshill Found on the Isle of Wight, has larger fruits than normal

Haschberg Heavily fruiting Austrian selection, used in commercial orchards.

Ina Eastern European cultivar with medium-large fruits; very high yields

Sambu Danish cultivar with medium sized fruits and clusters; good yields

Samdal Danish cultivar with large fruits and clusters; very high yields

Samidan Danish cultivar with large fruits in very large clusters; very high yields. Compact shrub.

Sampo Danish cultivar with very large fruits in large clusters, good flavour; very high yields

Samyl Danish cultivar with large fruits and clusters; very high yields

Urban Lace Unusual variety with finely cut leaves.

Viridis Green-fruited sub-species. The fruits are average in size, but the green colour means birds don't take them as quickly!

American elderberry, *Sambucus canadensis* is a large suckering shrub growing 2-3 m (6-10 ft) high, with very large flower heads. Not self-fertile, and rarely cross-pollinating with the European elder (as the latter flowers before it), so if one of these selections is grown alone it flowers non-stop from late July until November. This is ideal if the flowers are the crop required; the flowers can be used much like those of the European elder, ie can be cooked – dipped in batter and fried – or soaked in water to make a refreshing drink, or made into wine. With pollination, fruits are produced which can be used just like those of the native elder – for wine or cooked etc. A superb plant which grows in most sites in sun or part shade; very hardy with older stems often dying off, resprouting from the ground. Plants are supplied as bare-rooted, 30-60 cm plants, price £7.70 each.

Variety Description

Johns Flowers clusters are extremely large; if pollinated, fruits are large and tasty in large clusters. Very vigorous, mid season ripening.

York Flower clusters are very large; if pollinated, fruits are large and juicy in large clusters. Vigorous and late ripening.

Gages

Gages are like extra sweet juicy plums with a fantastic flavour.

Bare root maidens or two year trees on St Julien A or Pixy rootstocks. **£14.85 each.**

St Julien A rootstock produces bushes or half standards 3.5-4m (12-14 ft) high, and is also suitable for fans.

Pixy is a semi-dwarfing rootstock producing bushes 2.7-3.6 m (9-12 ft) high.

Some of the varieties below require cross pollination; choose a variety with the same or an adjacent flower group (eg. 'B')

will be pollinated by A, B or C). sf = self-fertile, psf = partially self-fertile, ss = self-sterile. Bullaces and damsons are hardier and thriftier than plums and are rarely troubled by diseases.

See damsons and bullaces, and plums also for cross pollination possibilities.

Early summer gages – July/August

Variety pick/use flowering Pixy St J Description

Cambridge Gage late Aug D Fruit small, yellowish-green, juicy. A heavy reliable cropper.

Denniston's Superb Aug C sf fruit yellowish-green, flesh golden, very good flavour. Heavy cropper and a good pollinator.

Old Greengage Aug D psf Very old variety with a true greengage flavour.

Oullins Golden Gage Aug D psf yellow fruit, flesh firm, sweet, good flavour, also good cooked. Tree large, vigorous, upright, fair cropper, good pollinator.

Late summer gages – August/September

Variety pick/use flowering Pixy St J Description

Jefferson Aug-Sept B ss yellow fruit, flesh firm, very juicy, rich flavour, hangs well. Tree moderately vigorous, a good cropper.

Hawthorns

Many of the hawthorn (*Crataegus*) family bear nice edible fruits with an apple/haw flavour. We have a selection available

of the best we have found for taste and good cropping. These are all bare-rooted trees on native hawthorn rootstock –

any native haw suckers which grow should be removed.

Species Description Price

Crataegus arnoldiana A small round-headed tree from North America growing to 6 m (20 ft) tall. It bears very nice sweet, tasty and juicy red fruits in early autumn. Grows in any reasonable soil in sun or part

shade; hardy to -23°C .

80-120 cm

£13.20

Crataegus durobrivensis A rare small round-headed hybrid tree from North America growing to 6 m (20 ft) tall. It bears very nice sweet, tasty and juicy red fruits, 16 mm (0.7") across, in early autumn. Grows in any reasonable soil in sun or part shade; hardy to -25°C . Grafted plants.

80-120 cm

£13.20

Crataegus ellwangeriana A rare small round-headed tree from the Eastern USA, growing to 6 m (20 ft) tall. It bears very nice sweet, tasty and juicy red fruits, 20 mm (0.8") across, in early autumn. Grows in any reasonable soil in sun or part shade; hardy to -25°C . Grafted plants.

60-100 cm

£13.20

Crataegus mollis Red haw. Another small tree from North America, growing 10 m (32 ft) high or more. The red fruits are borne in large clusters; they are edible, 12-25 mm ($\frac{1}{2}$ -1") across. The wood is used for turnery. Likes sun or part shade; hardy to -23°C .

Not

available

2008/9

Crataegus pedicellata A spreading thorny small tree from the USA growing to 6 m (20 ft) high, bearing white flowers in late spring, followed by pear-shaped, bright red fruit, 2 cm long, in October which hang well on the tree and have a good apple flavour. Hardy to -20°C .

80-120 cm

£13.20

Crataegus pinnatifida major

'Big Golden Star'

Small tree from Northern China, growing to 6 m (20 ft) high. Big Golden Star is a variety bred for fruit production, which bears masses of dark red fruits, 25 mm (1") across, which are eaten usually cooked. Also used for reforestation on sandy soils. Grows in any reasonable soil in sun or part shade; hardy to -20°C .

100-120

cm

£13.20

Crataegus schraderiana A small tree with silver cut foliage, creamy flowers, and large crops of large purple fruits which have a good flavour

125-150

cm

£14.85

Crataegus tanacetifolia Syrian haw. Rounded small thornless tree growing to 10 m (30 ft) high, often less. Fragrant white flowers in summer are followed by rounded, aromatic, orange-red edible fruits, up to 2.45 cm (1") across, of good flavour.

80-120 cm

£13.20

Juneberries

The Juneberries, *Amelanchier* species, are related to apples and bear currant-like purplish fruits with a good flavour which

ripen in June or July in the UK. See Saskatoons in bush fruit for *Amelanchier alnifolia*.

Species / cultivar Description Price

Ballerina A spreading, small shrubby tree or large shrub to 6 m (20 ft) high. Masses of white flowers in mid Spring are followed by edible sweet juicy purplish-black fruits, up to 12 cm ($\frac{1}{2}$ ") across. A free-flowering hybrid of *A.laevis*, hardy to -25°C .

60-100 cm

bare root

£9.00

Prince William A medium sized, multi-stemmed shrub growing to 2.5m high. Abundant flowers are followed by good crops of very large fruits, blueberry-sized, with a very good flavour.

60-100 cm

bare root

£9.00

16

Amelanchier canadensis Serviceberry. A large shrub or small tree from Eastern North America growing to 8 m (27 ft) high. White flowers in spring are followed edible sweet bluish fruits.

40-60 cm

bare root

£6.00

Pears

Bare root maidens or two year trees on Quince A or Quince C rootstocks. **£14.30 each.**

Quince A (QA) is semi-dwarf, producing bush trees about 15 ft (4.5m) high. Requires staking.

Quince C (QC) is dwarf, and produces bush trees about 4 m (13 ft) high which come into bearing slightly earlier.

Requires good growing conditions and staking.

Pyrodwarf (PD) is semi-vigorous, making trees about 16 ft (5m) high.

All the varieties below require cross pollination except Gorham, Improved Fertility & Louise Bonne; choose a variety with

the same or an adjacent flower group (eg. 'B' in "fl.gp" will be pollinated by A, B or C).

Summer dessert pears – ripen July/August

Variety Pick Use QA QC fl.gp Description

Beurre Giffard Aug-Sept Aug-Sept C fruit greenish-yellow. Flesh melting, juicy, refreshing vinous flavour. Tree moderately vigorous, spreading, productive.

Early autumn dessert pears – ripen September/October

Variety Pick Use QA QC fl.gp Description

Beth Sept-Oct Sept-Oct C fruit pale green, turning to pale yellow, smooth skinned. Flesh sweet and juicy. A good cropper.

Fondante

d'Automne

Sept Sept-Oct D fruit greenish with russet. Flesh melting, sweet, excellent musky flavour. Tree small, spreading, reliable good cropper.

Gorham Aug/Sept Sept E fruit tender, juicy, sweet, good flavoured., good for canning & bottling. Tree upright, hardy, good cropper.

Improved Fertility Sept Sept/Oct D fruits russeted, white fleshed, juicy, sweet, may need thinning. Tree hardy, heavy cropping, part self-fertile.

Invincible* Sept Sept C Very tough, hardy tree, sets heavy crops each year and flowers a second time after late frosts. Good pollinator too.

Merton pride Sept Sept D Fruit yellow and brown, flesh melting, juicy, fine texture and flavour. Tree moderately vigorous, regular cropper, triploid.

Onward Sept Sept-Oct E flesh smooth, soft, sweet, juicy, excellent flavour. Tree a good regular cropper.

Williams Bon

Chretien

Aug-Sept Aug-

Sept+

D fruit medium-large, pale green turning golden yellow. Flesh very juicy and sweet. A regular good cropper, self-fertile.

18

Late autumn dessert pears – ripen October/November

Variety Pick Use QA QC fl.gp Description

Beurre Hardy Oct Oct-Nov D flesh white or pinkish, aromatic, sweet, juicy, good flavour. Tree vigorous, upright, hardy, not a good pollinator.

Concorde Oct Oct-Jan E fruit medium-large, pale green turning yellow. Flesh pale yellow, sweet and juicy. Very heavy cropping, compact grower.

Conference Sept Oct-Dec+ C fruit thin-skinned, sweet, juicy, good flavour. Tree fairly compact, reliable heavy cropper, hardy. Fruit also good bottled or canned.

Cromwell Oct Oct+ D Fruit conical, very juicy and sweet. Tree a heavy cropper, ornamental, with new growth red in spring. A Williams seedling.

Doyenne du

Comice

Oct Oct-Dec+ E fruit medium-large, pale green turning yellow. Flesh pale yellow, rich juicy flavour, very good quality.

Durondeau Sept-Oct Sept-Nov C Fruit yellow and red, flesh juicy, melting, sub-acid, good flavour. Tree hardy, regular heavy cropper, part self-fertile.

Louise Bonne of

Jersey

Sept Sept-Nov C flesh smooth, melting, sweet, aromatic, good flavour. Tree hardy, excellent annual cropper.

Nouveau Poiteau Oct Nov E fruit russeted, flesh sweet, very melting, rich flavour.

Packham's

Triumph

Sept-Oct Oct-Dec+ C fruit medium-large, bright green turning yellow. Flesh pale yellow, juicy, musky flavour. Good cropper, compact grower.

Winter dessert pears – ripen November/February

Variety Pick Use QA QC fl.gp Description

Glou Morceau Oct Dec-
Jan+

D fruit medium-large, greenish-yellow. Flavour excellent, juicy, melting. A reliable cropper and good pollinator.

Sierra Oct Dec-Feb D fruit large, greenish-yellow, thin-skinned; flesh very fine, smooth, juicy, good flavour. Tree large, vigorous, spreading.

See also the Shipova pear in unusual fruits.

Late keeping cooking pears

Variety Pick Use QA QC fl.gp Description

Catillac Oct Dec-May D flesh cooks to deep red with a fine flavour. Also good for dessert by spring. Vigorous, heavy cropper, triploid (not good pollinator)

Plums

Bare root maidens or two year trees on St Julien A or Pixy rootstocks. **£14.85 each.**

St Julien A rootstock produces bushes or half standards 3.5-4m (12-14 ft) high, and is also suitable for fans.

Pixy is a semi-dwarfing rootstock producing bushes 2.7-3.6 m (9-12 ft) high.

Some of the varieties below require cross pollination; choose a variety with the same or an adjacent flower group (eg. 'B'

will be pollinated by A, B or C). sf = self-fertile, psf = partially self-fertile, ss = self-sterile. The bullaces and damsons are

hardier and thriftier than plums and are rarely troubled by diseases.

See also Bullaces and damsons, and Gages for cross pollination possibilities.

Early summer plums – July/August

Variety pick/use flowering Pixy St J Description

Avalon Aug C psf Fruit large, red, roundish-oval, good flavour. Vigorous tree.

Blue Tit Aug C Fruit yellow fleshed with a blue/black bloom, good quality. Also used cooked.

Czar Aug D sf fruit tender, quite good dessert, good cooked flavour. Tree compact, reliable, hardy, heavy cropping.

Herman July/Aug C sf Fruit medium sized, blue-black, freestone, excellent flavour & quality.

Jubilee August E sf Very large fruits, like a large Victoria plum. Tree vigorous, self fertile.

Mirabelle de Nancy Aug E psf Similar to cherry plum, fruits are golden yellow, round; flesh yellow, sweet, excellent flavour, freestone. Small bushy tree.

Opal Aug C psf reddish purple fruit, flesh firm good flavoured. Tree dense, round headed, a heavy reliable cropper.

Purple Pershore Aug D sf dark purple fruits, flesh deep yellow, firm, good for dessert and cooking. Tree dense, twiggy, pendulous, a heavy cropper.

Violetta mid Aug D sf Ripens mid August. A recent Swedish variety, blue skinned fruit with sweet yellow flesh. Tree compact and an excellent cropper.

Warwickshire

Drooper

Aug D sf Eater & cooking plum, crops well with a drooping habit. Fruit large, yellow, very juicy.

Yellow Egg

(Pershore Egg)

Aug D sf Bright yellow fruits, flesh deep yellow, firm, good for dessert and cooking. Tree dense, twiggy, pendulous, a heavy cropper.

Late summer plums – August/September

Variety pick/use flowering Pixy St J Description

Haganta* Sept C psf Fruit large, blue, excellent flavour and aroma, freestone. Disease resistant.

Kea Sept D sf Fruit juicy, slightly acid, used for dessert & cooking. Traditional Cornish variety.

Red Kea Sept D sf Fruit red, juicy, slightly acid, used for dessert & cooking. Traditional Cornish variety.

Stanley Sept D sf Fruit large, blue-black; flesh firm, sweet, rich. A vigorous spreading tree which crops heavily and regularly.

Victoria Aug-Sept C sf large fruit of good flavour fresh or cooked. Tree very heavy cropping, hardy, vigorous, a good pollinator.

Autumn plums – September/October

Variety pick/use flowering Pixy St J Description

Guinevere Late sept C sf Fruit large, good quality. Heavy cropping.

Marjories Seedling Sept-Oct E psf fruit large, flesh firm, juicy, quite sweet, good flavour, hangs well on tree, good cooked. Tree vigorous, upright, heavy cropping.

Quinces

All bare root maidens on Quince A or Quince C rootstock (see pears for sizes). £14.85 each. See also shrub quinces in bush fruit.

Variety QA QC Description

Champion Fruits large, roundish-pear shaped, greenish-yellow; flesh yellow. Tree vigorous, v.productive, precocious.

Krymsk (Syn. Aromatnaya) New variety with some resistance to leaf blight. Fruits are golden and, unusually, are sweet enough to eat fresh; they soften on ripening; pineapple flavour.

Meeches

Prolific

Fruits bright yellow, pear-shaped, excellent flavour, early ripening. Tree a good heavy cropper.

Portugal Fruits oblong-pear shaped, very large, yellowish-orange, juicier than most, ripening before most other varieties. Tree vigorous with large ornamental pink flowers.

Serbian Gold Early ripening. Very productive, healthy tree with some resistance to leaf blight.

Vrajna Fruits large, pale green-yellow, good flavour and a reliable cropper.

The above are of course *Cydonia oblonga*, but we also list the Chinese quince (below) and see Oriental quinces in bush fruit for details

of edible *Chaenomeles*.

Chinese

quince

Pseudocydonia sinensis. A small evergreen Chinese tree growing to 6 m (20 ft) high. It bears huge aromatic fruits, 12-17 cm (5-7") long, which are edible, eaten raw or cooked in the same way as other quinces. It likes a well drained soil and sun; hardy to -20°C.

Bare root trees

£10.00

21

Sea Buckthorn

Grown commercially in many countries for its fruits (high in vitamins A & C), which are made into juice and mixed with

other (sweeter) juices and sold commercially.

Plants make a large shrub or small tree, growing 6m (20 ft) high or more; nitrogen-fixing. Produces abundant fruits which

are edible (cooked and sweetened). Used as a sand dune stabiliser; also a bee plant. Likes a well drained, sunny site and

grows in any soil. Dioecious, so both sexes are needed for fruit. Growth 3.5m (12 ft) in 10 years; hardy to -35°C.

Cultivar Descripton Price

Dorana* A relatively small female variety, bearing medium-large fruits which are easier to pick than many.

Frugana female variety, heavy cropping all

Hergo a female form, bearing large crops of fruits 30-50 cm

Leikora female form, bearing large crops of fruits bare root

Polmix male form @ £7.70

Orange Energy* A new female variety selected for very heavy fruiting.

Service tree

Sorbus domestica is a small to medium sized tree in Britain with rowan-type leaves and flowers. It bears red flushed fruits

in the autumn which either ripen on the tree or are picked and stored inside to ripen like medlars. When ripe they have a

delicious sweet flavour and can also be made into preserves, liqueurs etc.

'Rosie' is our own selection, fruiting heavily at a young age. The fruits are pear-shaped, 4 cm long. Makes a small tree of

low vigour. Unavailable this season..

Nut trees

Almonds

Bare root maiden trees grafted to Almond, Myran or St Julien A rootstocks. Almonds can be grown in Britain! These

should do well wherever plums do. All these varieties flower very late (about the same time as plums) and are resistant to

peach leaf curl. Plant two varieties if not self-fertile (even self-fertile varieties will crop better with cross pollination.)

£22.00 each.

Rootstocks available:

Almond – vigorous, suitable for well-drained soils only. Makes a tree up to 6 m (20 ft) high.

Myran – vigorous, tolerant of wet soils and honey fungus. Makes a tree up to 6 m (20 ft) high.

St Julien A – moderately vigorous. Makes a tree to 5 m (16 ft) high.

Variety Almond Myran St J A Description

Ai Old French variety. Regular producer of nuts. Tree bushy, resistant to blossom blight.

Ardechoise Old French variety. Producer of thin shelled long nuts. Tree erect, hardy.

Ferraduel* Fairly recent French variety. Nuts hard shelled, kernels large, flat. Productive, good pollinator.

Ferragnes* Fairly recent French variety. Nuts hard-shelled, kernels large, light coloured. Very productive.

Ingrid A Scandinavian selection with showy pink flowers and thick-shelled nuts of good flavour.

Quite resistant to peach leaf curl. A peach-almond cross.

Lauranne* Recent French variety. Nuts hard shelled, kernels large, light coloured. Tree spreading, precocious, productive, self fertile.

Mandaline* Very recent French variety. Self-fertile, and a good pollinator. Nuts of excellent flavour.

Phoebe Self-fertile tree with good resistance to peach leaf curl. Pink ornamental flowers are followed by good quality nuts.

Robijn Soft shelled Dutch variety, flowering late; frost resistant. Tree vigorous, productive, hardy, self fertile. A peach-almond cross.

22

Bladdernuts

Staphylea pinnata is a large vigorous shrub from Europe and Asia, growing 5 m (16 ft) high in 10 years. It produces thinshelled

edible seeds 1 cm across, tasting rather like pistachio nuts. Likes a moist soil and sun or part shade; hardy to –20°C. Bare rooted plants, 25-50 cm, £9.00.

S.trifoliata, the American bladdernut, is a smaller shrub producing slightly smaller seeds. Likes the same conditions as

pinnata. Plants are bare rooted, 20-40 cm, £8.00

Buartnuts

Hybrids between the butternut and heartnut. They combine the adaptability, cold tolerance and sweet flavour of the former with high yields and easily cracked shells of the latter. Large trees which need sun and a well drained soil. Hardy to at least –25°C. Plant 2 trees for cross pollination. ‘Mitchell’ Grown in rootainers, £8.80.

Butternuts

The butternut or white walnut is a large tree from Eastern N.America, growing 25 m (80 ft) high (3 m in 10 years). It bears

large edible nuts the size of walnuts, which make excellent eating; they also yield an edible oil. Many cultivars in

N.America. Self-fertile. These seedlings should inherit many of their parents characteristics. Give full sun and a well drained

soil; young trees may need protection from late frosts. Hardy to about –30°C. Plants are seedling trees from known mothers, 15-30 cm high, grown in deep cell Rootainers; £8.80 each.

Variety Description

Bear Creek Bears medium sized nuts which crack very well.

Beckwith Bears nuts which crack well; a prolific cropper, moderately vigorous.

Booth Bears medium sized nuts which crack well on vigorous trees.

Chestnuts

Bare root maidens, 100-150 cm, £19.80 each unless indicated below.

Most chestnut varieties require cross pollination for a good crop – use one of the pollinators listed in the table below.

These varieties should start fruiting 2-4 years after planting. Marrons bear single nuts within the seeds, châtaignes bear

multiple nuts in one seed separated by a papery inner shell. The hybrids are Japanese-European crosses made in

France with resistance to ink disease and are heavier cropping. Our most highly recommended varieties are Belle Epine,

Bouche de Betizac, Bournette, Marigoule, Marlhac and Precoce Migoule. For a single tree, plant Marigoule. indicates a pollinator. Early ripening is late Sept/early Oct in the South of the UK, late is late October.

Northern areas

should use early ripening selections.

Variety Pollinator Description

Bouche de Betizac Early season ripening. Hybrid, vigorous upright tree. Nuts are marrons, large, chestnut-red fading to dark brown.

Marigoule Very early season ripening. Hybrid, vigorous tree. Nuts are marrons, large to very large, shiny dark mahogany, good flavour. Plants are container grown or bare rooted.

Precoce Migoule Early season ripening. Hybrid, rounded tree of moderate vigour. Nuts are châtaignes, small to medium size, clear mahogany.

Ginkgos

The *maidenhair tree* is a large tree from China, growing 30 m (100 ft) high (about 3 m in 10 years). The seeds, about the size of hazelnuts, are edible when roasted and an edible oil can be obtained from them; a popular food crop in China. The leaves are now used in modern medicine. Likes a position in full sun; dioecious (both sexes needed for fruiting) and hardy to -25°C . All varieties available in small numbers only.

Variety Description Price

Seedling trees As above – unsexed seedlings. 40-80 cm bare root £8.00

Dr Causton Bears both male and female flowers and is self-fertile (and will pollinate Ohasuki). Very rare, discovered in Gloucestershire (UK).

30-50 cm, pot grown £20.00

King of Dongting A female form, slow growing, with very big leaves. 30-50 cm, pot grown £16.00

Ohasuki A female form with fairly large leaves. Only grows 4-5 m high. Not available

Saratoga Male. A good pollinator. Has vivid yellow foliage in autumn. 60-90 cm bare root £16.00

Eastern Star* Female. Bears abundant crops of large nuts. 60-90 cm bare root £16.00

Hazelnuts

Bare root bushes (some in 3L pots) £11.00 each.

Good hazelnut yields require cross pollination. If you have native hazel hedges next to your planting site, then you'll

probably get good cross pollination from these, otherwise plant at least two varieties.

Variety Description

Butler Mid season. Nuts large, kernels light brown, oval, sweet, medium thick shell. Short husk - most nuts come free easily from husk. Tree vigorous, resistant to bacterial blight, heavy cropper. Male flowers abundant.

Corabel* Mid-late season. Nuts large, sweet, excellent flavour, easily shelled. Tree vigorous, upright, heavy and regular yielding, late to leaf out. Male flowers abundant. Recently bred in France.

Cosford Mid season. Nuts medium-large, oval, kernels tan, thin shelled, excellent flavour. Medium length husk. Tree vigorous, upright, low yielding, late to leaf out. Origin: UK.

EMOA 1 A recent selection bred for organic growers with very large round nuts. Tree very productive and disease resistant. In 3L pots.

Ennis Mid-late season. Nuts very large, kernels light brown, round, excellent flavour. Medium length husk, moderate fall free of husk. Male flowers abundant. Tree vigorous, high yielding.

Hall's Giant (Halle'sche Riesennuss) Mid-late season. Nuts large, kernels golden brown, oval-round, thick shelled, good flavour. Medium husk length. Male flowers abundant. Tree vigorous, upright, very resistant to bud mites, not susceptible to nut weevils.

Kent Cob Mid-late season. Nuts medium sized, oval, thick shelled, excellent flavour. Husk long – few nuts fall free of husk. Tree moderately vigorous, spreading, medium yielding, mid-late leafing, resistant to bud mites.

Lang Tidlig Zeller Nuts small-medium size, kernel golden brown, thick shelled. Tree moderately vigorous, spreading, leggy.

Origin: Germany. In 3L pots.

Pauetet Nuts easily shelled, easy to remove pellice, excellent for blanching. Tree vigorous, heavy yielding. Origin: Spain.

Pearson's prolific (Nottingham)

Early season. Also known as Nottingham Cob. Nuts medium-large, good flavour. Tree vigorous, a regular and good cropper.

Red Zellernuss Vigorous tree with reddish-bronze leaves. Bears good crops of nuts with red husks. Ornamental and productive.

Segorbe High yielding French variety with large nuts; a good pollinator.

(list continues...)

24

Tonda di Giffoni Mid-late season. Nuts large, round, thin shelled, kernel light brown, excellent flavour. Husk length medium.

Tree moderate to high yielding. Male flowers abundant. Origin: Italy. In 3L pots.

Webb's Prize Cob Mid season. Nuts large, roundish, borne in large clusters. Tree moderately vigorous, spreading.

Turkish hazel
– *Corylus colurna*

Makes a medium to large conical tree with deeply ridged ornamental bark. Flowers in late winter are followed by edible nuts borne in deeply fringed husks. Bare root plants, £8.00.

Heartnuts

The heartnut or Japanese walnut is a fast growing medium sized tree, growing some 80 cm per year, which bears large numbers of heart-shaped nuts. These are edible raw or cooked with a good walnut flavour, and the oil from them is also

edible. Esteemed, with many cultivars in Japan and North America. These seedlings should inherit many of their parents

characteristics. Trees need less attention than walnuts, give full sun and a well drained soil; hardy to about –25°C. Plant

2 selections for cross pollination. Plants are seedling trees from known mothers, 20-50 cm high, grown in Roottrainers;

£8.80 each.

Variety Description

Brock medium-sized nuts, of good quality and easily cracked

CW3 A recent improved selection with good crops of large nuts.

Fodermaier bears large nuts which crack well and have a good kernel percentage

Rhodes bears large nuts which crack easily; starts fruiting at a young age

Monkey puzzle tree

Araucaria araucana is a large evergreen tree with spidery branches from South America, potentially one of the best nutproducing

trees in oceanic climates. Eventually reaches 30 m (100 ft) high, but slow growing, 2 m (7 ft) in 10 years) and doesn't fruit for 25-40 years (so plant some for your descendants!) The large seeds, produced in huge cones, are edible

with a fine chestnut-plantain flavour. Dioecious (need male & female trees for nuts), hardy to –15°C.

Pot grown trees (2 L) £10.00.

Oaks

Species Description Price

Ballota oak

(*Quercus ilex*
ballota)

A natural variety of the holm oak which bears larger and sweeter acorns, much used in Spain and Portugal as food and fodder.

Large

Roottrainers:

£8.00

Cork oak (*Quercus*
suber)

The well known Mediterranean tree from which cork is obtained; the seeds are large and fairly low in tannins and can be eaten fresh or with a minimum of processing. Hardy to –10°C.

Large

Roottrainers:

£8.00

Yellowhorn

Yellowhorn. A large upright shrub or small tree, preferring a sunny location, not fussy about soil. Large white and carmine flowers in

May are followed by walnut-like capsules containing numerous small chestnut-like seeds. These seeds are edible and nutty; leaves

and flowers are also edible. Hardy to -23°C.

Container grown trees (30-50 cm): £8.80

Bush and soft fruit

Blackberries & hybrid berries

Variety Description

Adrienne Early season. Bears long fruits of excellent flavour, easily picked. Spineless canes and a good cropper.

Black Satin Mid-late season. Vigorous canes, resistant to cane spot. Fruits large, firm, keep well. Productive.

Helen Very early season. Spineless canes, compact bush. Fruits large with a very good flavour.

Loch Ness Mid-late season. Canes thornless. Fruits large, firm; very heavy cropper.

Oregon Thornless Mid-late season. Thornless, evergreen or semi-evergreen canes of moderate vigour. Fruits medium size, roundish-oval, firm, sweet with a good flavour. Bears good crops in fertile soils.

Thornfree Late season. Vigorous thornless canes. Fruits medium-large, firm, good sweet-acid flavour. Very heavy cropping.

Waldo Mid season. Canes spineless, moderately vigorous. Fruit large, firm, good flavour, keep well. Heavy cropper.

Buckingham

Tayberry

Thornless Tayberry. Very early season. Canes moderately vigorous, branching. Fruits very large, dark purplish-red, very good sweet-acid flavour, easily picked. High yielding.

Japanese

Wineberry (Rubus phoenicolasius) A medium size trailing shrub, growing to 2 m (6 ft) high with prickly trailing biennial stems which root at the tips. It produces large crops of very nice raspberry-like sweet fruits in summer; the fruits are well-protected by a calyx until they ripen thus suffer less bird and insect damage. Bare root and pot grown.

Thornless Loganberry Mid season. Canes spineless, moderate vigour. Fruit large, claret-red, juicy, excellent flavour. Heavy cropper.

Blackcurrants

Variety Description

Ben Gairn* Early season. New disease and reversion-resistant variety giving high yields of large fruits, excellent flavour.

Ben Hope* Mid season. New variety with good resistance to disease and gall mite (and thus avoiding reversion). Very vigorous upright bush, heavy cropper with fruits of excellent flavour.

Established varieties. Bare rooted bushes. £5.50 each

Blackcurrant

Variety

Description

Barchatnaja Very hardy, high yielding with large fruit; early flowering; self-sterile. Russian cv, frost resistant flowers.

Ben Alder* Mid season. Late flowering producing high yields of large fruits of good quality.

Ben Connan* Mid-late season. Late flowering, heavy yields of large fruit on compact bushes.

Ben Lomond* Mid-late season. Late flowering, fruit large, excellent flavour. Bushes moderately vigorous.

Ben More Mid-late ripening. Very late flowering, heavy yields of very large fruits on vigorous bushes.

Ben Nevis Mid-late season. Late flowering, fruit large, slightly sweet. Very heavy yields on bushes of moderate vigour.

Ben Sarek* Mid-late season. Late flowering, heavy yields of large fruit on small spreading bushes.

Ben Tirren* Very late season. Late flowering, heavy yields of large fruit of very good flavour.

Black Reward Mid-late season. Late flowering, fruit medium-large, good flavour, in long clusters. Very vigorous bushes give good yields.

Byelorussian Sweet Early season. Very hardy, large fruits, high yielding. A hardy Russian selection, frost resistant flowers.

Hystawneznaya Very early season (mid June). Fruit medium sized. A hardy Russian selection, frost resistant flowers.

Jet Very late season. Very late flowering, fruits medium, easily picked; bushes very vigorous.

Kosmichesnaya Mid season. Medium sized fruits. A hardy Russian selection, frost resistant flowers.

Pilot A Mamkin Early-mid season. Medium sized fruits. A hardy Russian selection, frost resistant flowers.

Seabrooks Black Mid season. Mid-late flowering, fruits medium, easily picked, heavy yields; bushes very vigorous.
Wellington xxx Early-mid season. Mid flowering, fruits med-large, heavy yields. Bushes very vigorous.

Blueberries

All require an acid soil or container compost. Fruit best with cross pollination.

Variety Description

Berkeley Mid season. Fruits medium-large, resist cracking. Bushes vigorous, upright, very productive.
Bluecrop Mid season (Early-mid August.) Large, light blue fruit., good flavour. Vigorous upright bush with good autumn colour.
Darrow Late season (mid-late August). Very large fruit, bush upright, compact.
Earlyblue Early season (late July). Fruit medium-large, light blue, good flavour; upright bush.
Hardyblue Early-mid season. Fruit medium-large on a fast growing bushy plant. Tolerant of less acid soils.
Jersey Late season. Fruits medium sized, excellent flavour; bushes upright and spreading.

Blue honeysuckle

These small shrubs, growing to 1.5 m (5 ft) high, are grown commercially for their edible, blueberry-like fruits in several countries. They are extremely hardy. Grow two or more plants for cross pollination.

Species Description Price

Lonicera caerulea edulis bears edible fruits, to 16 mm long, blueberry flavour bare root £7.00
Lonicera caerulea kamtschatka 'Blue Velvet' Has attractive, greyish-green, velvety foliage and very large, sweet-tart flavorful blue berries. A compact spreading shrub.

Chokeberries

Hugin Canadian selection with very large fruits and heavy crops.
Nero Bred for large fruits with a high vitamin C content, and bears heavy yields.
Viking has very large fruits and bears good crops.

Cranberries

True American cranberries, *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, are part of the blueberry family and like similar conditions – acid moist soil and sun. Cranberries are low growing, trailing plants which are easily grown in containers with an acid compost if soil conditions are not suitable. The varieties here are all bred in North America for good fruit production.

CN Large fruits with dark red juice. Heavy cropper.
Olsons Honkers Fruit very large. Heavy cropper.
Pilgrim Fruit large, purplish-red.
European *Vaccinium oxycoccos* is a similar prostrate plant to the American cranberry and bears smaller but similar quality fruits.

Elaeagnus

All the Elaeagnus family bear edible fruits as well as being useful nitrogen-fixing plants for hedges etc. The evergreens grow well in sun or shade. The fruits are currant to cherry sized and astringent until fully ripe.

Species Description Price

Elaeagnus angustifolia
Russian olive, Oleaster. A large deciduous shrub to 7m (22 ft) high with silvery foliage; vigorous. Numerous edible silvery-amber, oval fruits, ½" (12 mm) across. Growth 2m (7 ft) in 10 years; hardy to -40°C.

Elaeagnus x ebbingei

An evergreen large shrub to 5 m (16 ft) high with dark silvery green leaves, tiny fragrant flowers in autumn and red fruits (2 cm by 1 cm) which ripen in April or May, which are richly flavoured when fully ripe. Grows almost anywhere - poorer sites encourage more fruiting; hardy to -20°C.

Elaeagnus x ebbingei 'Limelight'

A form of the above with silvery young leaves which become yellow and green. It fruits well when cross pollinated with the unvariegated species.

Elaeagnus multiflora 'Sweet Scarlet'

The gouni is a medium sized bush, 2 m high and across. Sweet Scarlet bears numerous large and sweet red fruits in July. Self fertile.

Elaeagnus umbellata

Autumn olive. A large, spreading, vigorous shrub to 5 m (16 ft) high. Bears pale red, juicy,

sweet-acid edible fruits in autumn. Useful in hedges, as a dune stabiliser and as a nurse plant. We have available American as well as our own selected good fruiting selections – you need two different selections for reliable fruiting:

'Big Red' – produces good crops of very large fruits

'Brilliant Rose' – American, bears very large fruits of good flavour.

'Garnet*' – American, bears huge crops of medium sized, sweet fruits.

'Hidden Springs' - American variety with medium-large fruits.

'Jewel' - American variety with medium sized fruits of excellent flavour.

'Newgate' - Produces heavy crops of large fruits. Variety selected at Dartington.

'Red Cascade' – produces heavy crops of medium sized fruits

'Ruby*' – American, yields heavy crops of very large fruits.

'Sweet-N-Tart' - American variety with large fruits, sweet and tart as the name implies.

Fuchsia

Fuchsia magellanica is a hardy fuchsia forming a variable sized, but in cold climates will be perennial. After the familiar ornamental flowers, oblong fruits 15-20 mm long form on some cultivars which are edible and delicious - rather plum-like with peppery overtones. Top growth hardy to about -5°C; tolerates maritime exposure and partial shade. Our survey of 150 cultivars has identified the following as good fruiting forms

Variety Description

Globosa Bushy, 60-100 cm high. Bears numerous fruits.

Gracilis Graceful shrub 1-2 m high. Flowers dainty, slender, scarlet-purple.

Riccartonii Very hardy, upright, 2-3 m high. Flowers scarlet-purple.

Gaultheria

Fruits are edible from most of the Gaultheria species. Those of wintergreen are more medicinal than edible, while salal fruits are excellent and tasty. They like an acid, moist soil and part or full shade - an excellent understorey crop.

Species Description Price

Gaultheria procumbens

Wintergreen. A dense, low growing, creeping evergreen shrub 12 cm (5") high. Bears pinky white flowers in summer and red fruits, 8 mm or more across. All parts are wintergreen flavoured, containing aspirin-type compounds. Bees love the flowers. Hardy to -25°C. spreading

Gaultheria shallon

Salal, Shallon. A small evergreen shrub 1-1.8m (3-6 ft) high, vigorous and spreading freely to make a good ground cover. Freely bears large clusters of dark purple edible fruits, 10 mm across, with a good flavour. Also a bee plant. Hardy to -20°C spreading

Goji berry

Lycium barbarum is a shrub reaching m high. It bears red fruits which are eaten fresh or dried and are very nutritious. Also eaten are the young shoots and leaves, usually cooked as a vegetables (a minty cress flavour) in China. Usually flowers after 2 years, flowers in summer and autumn are followed by the orange-red fruits. They grow in any reasonably well drained soil, making a shrub up to 2.4-3m (8-10 ft) high, though can be container grown and kept smaller.

Gooseberries

All these selections are resistant to American gooseberry mildew.

Variety Description

Annellii Late season. Fruit red of good flavour. Bushes vigorous.

Black Velvet Mid season. Fruit dark reddish-black, oval, very good flavour. Bush a gooseberry-worcesterberry cross.

Hamamekii Mid season. Fruit red, good flavour. Bushes vigorous.

Hino Red Mid season. Fruit medium size, very good flavour, dark red.

Hino Yellow Mid season. Fruit yellowish-green, medium-large, good flavour. Bushes compact.

Invicta* Mid season. Heavy crops of medium sized green fruits of good flavour. Bushes vigorous, spreading.

Pax* Early season. Fruits dark red, round, of excellent flavour. Bushes bear only a few thorns.

Jostaberry Bears large clusters of nearly black berries. Thornless bush, self fertile.

Worcesterberry Bears masses of dark reddish fruits. Bushes vigorous, thorny – makes a good hedge.

Phoenix Bears large greenish-yellow seedless dessert fruits with good aroma and flavour.

Zalagyongye New Hungarian hybrid. Good wine, and enjoyable dessert. Fine golden berries in loose bunches. High quality, ripens

medium early. Good disease resistance.

Highbush cranberry

Unrelated to normal cranberries, *Viburnum trilobum* is a shrub to 4m (13 ft) high, closely related to the guelder rose.

Bears good crops of bright red fruits up to 12 mm (½") across, which can be made into a slightly bitter jelly like rowan jelly. Hardy to -40°C. Good fruiting selections are listed below.

Variety Description

Phillips fruits less bitter, produced in large clusters.

Wentworth fruits large in very large clusters.

Lingonberry

Vaccinium vitis-idaea is a low growing, ground covering plant which likes acid conditions. It is harvested both from the wild and from plantations, especially in Scandinavian countries. The fruits, the size of currants, are made into preserves etc.

'Koralle' is a good fruiting selection.

Oriental bush (flowering) quinces

The quince fruits from *Chaenomeles* species can be eaten in much the same ways as true quinces (cooked and sweetened). They also make a great drink juiced and sweetened.

Cathay quince *Chaenomeles cathayensis*. A narrow upright shrub growing to 2.5 m high. A regular bearer of huge green fruits, 7-10 cm across, with an aromatic lemony flavour, used like other quinces.

Chaenomeles japonica Cido variety bred in Lithuania for large fruits very high in Vitamin C, with a lemon flavour, and known in the region as the 'Northern Lemon'.

Chaenomeles x superba. Crimson and Gold Shrub to 1 m (3 ft) high, wide spreading, dense foliage. Red and gold flowers. Bears abundant large apple-shaped fruits.

Chaenomeles x superba. Fusion A cultivar selected for quick, heavy fruiting and large fruits for use for jelly, jams and beverages. About 1 m tall shrub with arching, overhanging shoots; flowers scarlet red; fruits large, 4 to 9 cm long and 4 to 6 cm wide, light to bronze-red with specks, especially rich in vitamin C.

Chaenomeles speciosa. Nivalis A fast growing, upright, 2m high shrub. White flowers are followed by large apple-like fruits.

Raspberries

Variety Description

Allgold Autumn fruiting. Recent variety with yellow fruits – less likely to be eaten by the birds!

Autumn Bliss* Ripens mid-August onwards. Heavy crops of large red fruits. Canes medium high – easy to support.

Glen Ample* Mid season. Heavy crops of medium-large bright red fruits of excellent flavour. Canes vigorous, spineless.

Glen Clova Early-mid season. Heavy crops of round, bright red fruits of good flavour, ripen over a long period.

Glen Magna Late season. Fruits very large, dark red, excellent flavour. Canes with few spines.

Glen Moy* Early-mid season. Heavy crops of large fruits. Canes thornless. Often fruits again in autumn.

Glen Prosen* Mid season. Fruits of good flavour which freeze well. Canes of moderate vigour – easy to support.

Octavia Late season. Useful variety for fruiting between maincrop and autumn raspberries.

Tulameen Mid and late season. Fruits very large, good quality. Canes with few spines.

Groundcover raspberries

These *Rubus* species are evergreen and ground covering, spreading and making an excellent cover in sun, partial or deep shade. They all flower in summer and bear nice raspberry-like fruits.

Species Description

R.nepalensis Nepalese raspberry. Another non-thorny creeping *Rubus* species, this one from the Himalayas, growing only 20 cm (8") high. Evergreen in mild winters, otherwise deciduous, though only hardy to about -12°C in the open; best planted as an understory shrublet beneath trees and shrubs, where it will thrive and form a ground cover. As well as providing ground cover, it produces lots of very nice edible berries.

R.pentalobus 'Emerald Carpet'

A very low growing non-thorny member of the family, this forms a creeping plant only 10 cm (4") high but spreading rapidly by rooting stems to form a very good ground cover in sun or shade on most soils. Usually evergreen - can be deciduous in cold climates. It bears edible fruits like small raspberries in summer and autumn. Hardy to -12°C or so.

Rubus 'Betty Ashburner'

A fairly vigorous evergreen ground covering Rubus hybrid, spreading 1m or more a year. Not only is it an excellent ground cover, even in quite shady locations, but it also produces nice edible berries too. It grows (without thorns) in most soils, dry or moist, to a height of about 45 cm (1½ ft), and is hardy to about -15°C.

Rubus tricolor An extremely vigorous, carpeting, evergreen Rubus species from Western China, which can spread 1-2 m per year. Not thorny. It forms an excellent ground cover both in sun and even in the deepest shade beneath conifers. Beware of planting it in a small garden though! It grows up to 60 cm (2 ft) high, and also produces edible berries of very good flavour which can also be used for dyeing. Hardy to -15°C or so.

Redcurrants

Variety Description

Cherry Early season. Fruits very large, deep red; good cropper. Vigorous bushes.

Jonkheer Van Tets Early season. Fruits large, dark red, heavy cropping. Aphid resistant, vigorous bushes.

Junifer Very early season. Very early flowering, heavy cropping.

Laxton's No. 1 Early-mid season. Heavy crops of med-large fruits, easily picked. Flowers late, vigorous bush.

Red Lake Mid season. Bears heavy crops of very large dark red fruits of good flavour on long trusses. Late flowering.

Redstart* Late season. Heavy cropper, bearing medium sized fruits of good flavour.

Rondom Late season. Late flowering, fruits medium sized on moderate length trusses, easily picked. Very productive.

Rovada Late season. Large fruits borne in long trusses; heavy cropper.

Stanza Mid-late season. Medium-large deep red fruits; heavy cropper. Vigorous bush, late flowering.

Rhubarb

Variety Description

Rheum palmatum *Turkish rhubarb*. A large robust rhubarb which can't be ignored! Produces leaf stalks of an excellent gooseberry-like flavour.

Champagne Early Early season. Produces good crops of long bright scarlet stalks of good flavour.

Glaskins Perpetual Early season. Low in oxalic acid (can be eaten all season), green stalks.

Victoria Late season. Produces good crops of thick stalks.

Saskatoons

Amelanchier alnifolia is probably the best of all the juneberries. The cultivars here have been selected in North America for large, good flavoured fruits and heavy yields. They grow about 2.5 m (8 ft) high when fully grown. Self fertile but fruit better with 2 selections.

Martin Early flowering variety with large fruits of excellent flavour.

Northline Upright shrub to 2m (6 ft) high. Fruits slightly pear-shaped, large and sweet, with good flavour.

Smoky Spreading bush bearing large, red-purple, round fruit (to 18 mm, 0.75") 2-3 years after planting

Thiessen Small roundish tree or open bush. Large fruits, productive tree.

Strawberries

Variety Description

Honeoye Early season. Good upright growing habit, performs well in the north and west. Fruit very good flavour.

Cambridge Favourite Mid season. An older variety, reliable, fruit pale, sweet and juicy. Dense growing habit.

Symphony Late season. Bright red fruits of excellent flavour. Very good disease resistance. Good in north and west.

Calypso Very late season: perpetual variety fruiting from late summer to autumn. Heavy cropping, good flavour, compact growth.

Alpine strawberries

Alba A variety of the wild strawberry with white fruits of good flavour - much less likely to be taken by birds! Does not produce runners.

Woodland strawberries

Blanc Ameloire An old variety of the wild woodland strawberry with white fruits of good flavour - not likely to be taken by birds! Spreads via runners.

We also supply a range of strawberry species for fruit and ground cover. The fruits are smaller than modern varieties but the flavour is

Species Description

Fragaria moschata Musk strawberry. A vigorous plant, freely runnering, growing to 45 cm (18") tall, from mainland Europe. The flowers are large and fruits are slightly larger than *F.vesca*, purplish-red, aromatic, with a musky or vinous flavour.

Fragaria nubicola Himalayan strawberry. Found in the high Himalayas, fruits are similar to *F.vesca*, being very aromatic with a good flavour.

Fragaria vesca Wild strawberry, woodland strawberry. A low growing semi-evergreen perennial plant, spreading and rooting as it goes. Most folk know the wild strawberry and its small but very tasty fruits. Strawberries make a good component of a ground cover layer beneath or around other plants.

Fragaria x biflora A hybrid of *F.vesca* and *F.viridis*, thought lost to cultivation around 1850. Leaves glossy, plants 25 cm (10") high, spreading via runners. Flowers large, fruits larger than *F.vesca*, greenish-pink, aromatic, sweet with a musky pineapple-cinnamon flavour.

Whitecurrants

Variety Description

Blanka Late season. A very heavy cropping variety, ripening in August.

White Versailles Mid season. Bears moderate yields of large, pale yellow fruits with a good flavour. Bushes vigorous, upright.

Unusual edibles and useful plants

Fruits

Cornus kousa chinensis *Chinese dogwood*.

A Chinese variety of *C.kousa* which flowers and fruits more readily, this makes a large shrub or small tree up to 7 m (23 ft) high, growing about 25 cm per year. Has richly-coloured foliage in the autumn. The fruits, about 20 mm in diameter, are edible with sweet, juicy, delicious pulp; young leaves are also edible. Prefers full sun but tolerates quite deep shade (where flowering is inhibited).

Big Apple a variety with abundant very large fruits

Cudrania tricuspidata *Chinese mulberry*

A large deciduous shrub, related to Osage orange and mulberries, which bears edible fruits of fine flavour. You need male and female plants for fruiting.

Mahonia aquifolium *Oregon Grape*

A small evergreen shrub growing 1-1.5 m (3-5 ft) high, tolerating deep shade. The blue-black fruits, 10 mm across, are edible as are the bright yellow flowers. Dyes can be made from the fruit, shoots and roots. An excellent ground cover and a superb understorey crop; also good in hedges. A good early source of nectar and pollen for honey and bumble bees.

Rhus aromatica *Fragrant sumach, Lemon sumach*.

A low dense suckering shrub from North America, growing 120 cm (4 ft) high. It flowers in early spring, before the leaves emerge, and these are followed by red fruits the size of currants which persist into winter. The fruits are lemony and can be soaked in water to make a lemonade drink. The leaves, fruit and root bark are used medicinally; the leaves are used for tanning. Useful as a ground cover plant, particularly on banks.

Rosa rugosa *Apple rose*

A very hardy and disease resistant rose, making a bush 1.5-2 m high, slightly spreading. One of the very best for rose hips, which are huge – 25-30 mm across, round, and very good for processing. Flowers are nice in salads etc. Good in hedges too.

Sorbus aucuparia edulis *Edible rowan*.

Small ornamental tree. This variety bears larger than normal fruits which are less bitter.

Sorbus x pyrus Shipova *Shipova pear*

The 'Shipova' is a cross between rowan and pear, and produces large plum-sized, red fruits of excellent flavour. Pollinate with a late flowering pear.

Sorbocrataegus 'Ivan's Belle'

An unusual hybrid between mountain ash and a hawthorn made by the Russian plant breeder Ivan Michurin. The foliage is similar to mountain ash and turns reddish in autumn. The wine red berries are the size of small cherries and are excellent for juice, preserves and sauces.

Vegetable & salad plants

Perennial brassicas

All these plants like a sunny site and well-drained soil. *Brassica* spp. are subject to all the usual brassica pests and diseases and may well need protection against caterpillar damage, pigeons etc.

Brassica oleracea acephala *Tree collards*

This can grow with a 'trunk' 2-4m high, topped by a head of leaves, which are harvested and eaten as greens. Plants can be 'coppiced' every few years back to 30cm high – they will usually resprout.

Brassica oleracea alboglabra *Kailan, Gai Lon, Chinese broccoli*

Often grown as an annual, this is in fact perennial. The upper 20-25cm of the thick, succulent stem, leaves and flowerbuds are harvested when the flowers begin to open; the flavour is a mix of asparagus and broccoli.

Brassica oleracea ramosa *Daubenton perennial kale*

A perennial kale with nutty-flavoured leaves available all year round.

Bunias orientalis *Turkish rocket*

Deep-rooted perennial growing to 1 m (3 ft) high which comes into growth early in the year. The leaves have a good flavour (mild cabbage in spring but getting hotter) and can be used in salads or (better) cooked. Best of all, though are the young flower heads, cooked like a mustardy broccoli.

Crambe cordifolia *Colwort*

Related to seakale, this is a larger robust plant growing up to 2.5m high when flowering. The young leaves, and especially the flowering shoots are eaten cooked as a vegetable.

Crambe maritima 'Lily White' *Seakale*

A perennial of the brassica family, seakale grows 60 cm (2 ft) high. Most often grown for the edible shoots, which are usually blanched for several weeks before harvesting ('Lily White' is a variety whose stems blanch well). The young leaves, though, are also edible and make a good cooked vegetable, and the excellent young flowering shoots are cooked and used like sprouting broccoli.

Caragana arborescens *Siberian pea shrub*

A large leguminous shrub from Siberia, reaching 6 m (20 ft) high and growing some 40 cm per year. The seeds, produced in numerous pods following yellow flowers, are edible when cooked (having a pea flavour), as are the young pods. A fibre is obtained from the bark. Bees visit the flowers and the species is a good fixer of nitrogen. A very hardy hedging and windbreak tree, hardy to -40°C.

Claytonia sibirica *Siberian purslane*

(*Montia sibirica*). Not from Siberia, this North American short-lived perennial grows 20 cm high in a any moist soil in sun or part or full shade. The leaves are edible, raw (an excellent salad plant – beet flavour) or cooked, and the plant can be used for ground cover – it self-seeds freely. Hardy to -35°C.

Halesia carolina *Snowbell tree*

A large shrub or small spreading tree to 6m (20 ft) high. White, bell-shaped flowers in spring are followed by pear-shaped, four-winged fruits, edible when green in summer with a nice pea flavour. Likes a moist acid soil and sun or part shade. Hardy to -23°C.

Hemerocallis *Day lily*

Robust, strong growing perennials, with edible flowers – excellent in salads. Hardy, vigorous and pest resistant, flowering over a long period. The following remains semi-evergreen in the UK.

Burning Delight grows 60 cm high with warm orange flowers.

Hyperion grows 110cm high with canary yellow flowers.

Luxury Lace grows 60 cm high with lavender pink flowers.

Red Rum grows to 40cm high with clear red flowers.

Hostas

Robust perennials for shade. Many Hostas have excellent edible leaf clusters, cooked lightly as a spring vegetable. Take slug-control measures!

Big Daddy: Has chalky-blue leaves, rounded, cupped and puckered at maturity. Grows 60cm high by 100 cm wide.

Matteuccia struthopteris *Ostrich fern*

One of the few perennial ferns with safely edible young 'shoots' – the still curled fronds are eaten as a cooked spring vegetable. A

widely used wild plant in parts of North America. Like a shady moist spot.

Oxydendrum arboreum *Sorrel tree*

A large shrub or small tree from North America, growing up to 10 m (32 ft) high (4 m in 10 years). The leaves are edible, being quite

tender with an excellent mild lemony sorrel flavour. The leaves are also used medicinally, and the species is a bee plant. Likes a moist, slightly acid soil and sun or part shade; hardy to -20°C.

Phytolacca americana *Poke root* 1L pots

A well known North American wild edible. It is a large, deep rooted, robust perennial growing to 2.5m high. The young shoots are cut when 20-30cm high and cooked, when they taste like asparagus – excellent. To cook, put in a pan with cold water, bring to the boil, discard water and replace with fresh water, then boil for 10 minutes. Note the shoots are toxic raw, and the dark purple fruits are not edible – they are used as an ink and dye.

Polygonatum biflorum *Great Solomon's seal*

A shade loving perennial which spreads via rhizomes to form colonies. It has great edible shoots in spring, cooked like asparagus and tasting sweet and delicious.

Tilia – lime trees

These have great edible young leaves all through the growing season for salads. Use them as a base ingredient instead of something like lettuce. To manage as a leaf crop, coppice or pollard trees every 1-5 years to keep them bushy.

Tilia cordata *Small leaved lime*

Tilia platyphyllos *Large leaves lime*

Spices

Calycanthus floridus *Carolina allspice, Spicebush.*

A dense bushy shrub to 3m (10 ft) high, with aromatic leaves and bark usable as a spice or flavouring, with a cinnamon flavour. Likes a moist, sunny spot. Hardy to -23°C.

Myrica gale *Bog myrtle*

Small nitrogen-fixing shrub, edible leaves/fruit as flavouring; medicinal. Hardy to -40°C

Zanthoxylum alatum *Nepal pepper.*

A large shrub from the Himalayas growing to 4m (13 ft) high. The fruits are peppery and can be used as a spice and pepper substitute

(as in Nepal). Needs a sunny site. Growth 4m (13 ft) in 10 years; hardy to -20°C.

Zanthoxylum piperitum *Pepper tree, Sansho, Japanese prickly ash*

A shrub growing 3-6m (10-20 ft) high. The fruits are used as a spice and pepper substitute in China and Japan - indeed the plant is cultivated commercially for the seeds. Also edible are the young leaves, flowers, and bark - also all used as a spice. Needs a sunny position; hardy to -20°C.

Zanthoxylum schinifolium *Szechuan pepper.* A very aromatic shrub from China and Japan growing 3 m (10 ft) high.

The leaves can be used as a flavouring, but the main use are the peppercorn-like fruits, which are used a spice (peppery and fragrant) - grown commercially as a spice crop in Asia. Grows well in any reasonable soil in sun or light shade; hardy to -20°C.

Zanthoxylum simulans *Chinese prickly ash, Szechuan pepper.*

Shrub growing 3 m (10 ft) high. The leaves can be used as a flavouring, but the main use are the peppercorn-like fruits, which are used a spice (peppery and fragrant). Grows well in any reasonable soil in sun or light shade. Several species are called Szechuan pepper!

Bamboos

All bamboo shoots are edible – most are slightly bitter raw and should be steamed or lightly boiled to remove the bitterness. Cut unwanted shoots before more than about 30 cm high to eat. You can also utilise the canes for all garden uses (cut them when 3 years old for maximum durability.) The sizes here relate to British conditions. They like sun or part shade and a moist soil.

Phyllostachys bissetii *Bisset bamboo*

Hardy, vigorous, moderately spreading bamboo reaching a height of 6 m and cane diameter of 45 mm. Forms spreading clumps of very dark green erect canes.

Phyllostachys edulis (*P. pubescens*) *Moso bamboo*

Vigorous moderately spreading hardy bamboo growing to 6 m high and cane diameter of 50 mm. Bright green canes mature to yellow. A major edible species in China and Japan.

Medicinal and other useful plants

Acer rubrum *Red maple.*

A better bet in terms of sap production in the UK than sugar maple, this species is more at home in a temperate climate. The foliage colours richly in the autumn. The timber is valued for joinery etc. Likes a moist, slightly acid soil in sun or part shade; hardy to -35°C.

Alnus – alders

Some of the best windbreak trees for the UK climate, and great nitrogen-fixing trees to help feed other plants in their vicinity. Very fast growing (1.5 m per year) conical trees reaching 15 m high or more.

Alnus cordata *Italian alder*

Tolerates drier soils in summer than most other alders.

Alnus rubra *Red alder*

Hamamelis virginiana *Witch hazel*

A large North American shrub from forest understories, growing to 5 m (16 ft) high, 30 cm per year. Bright yellow flowers open in the autumn as the leaves fall. The oily seeds are edible, but the plant is best known for its medicinal leaves and inner bark. Branches are used as diviner's rods. Likes a moist, slightly acid soil and sun or part shade; hardy to -35°C.

Phormium tenax *New Zealand flax*

An evergreen shrub, usually 2-3m (6-10 ft) high with sword-shaped leathery leaves. These leaves produce a strong fibre suitable for ropes, paper etc. They can also be used as twine merely by splitting and using fresh; or whole for basketry. Likes sun or part shade; tolerates exposure and suitable for hedging. Bee plant. Hardy to -12°C; naturalised in SW England.

Symphytum x uplandicum 'Bocking 14' *Quaker comfrey, Russian comfrey*. A vigorous hybrid perennial, growing up to 1 m (3 ft) high. Young leaves and flowers are edible in salads and roots can be used to make a coffee; all parts, like other comfrees, have medicinal properties. An excellent bee plant and ground cover, also a butterfly plant. Comfrey is an excellent mineral accumulator, its deep roots raising potassium in particular from the subsoil. 'Bocking 14' is a vigorous clone which is sterile, so it won't seed all over your garden.