

Cherry

**DID YOU KNOW
THE AVERAGE
CHERRY TREES HAS
7000 CHERRIES?**

CAN I GROW CHERRIES?

Most cherry trees need a significant number of chill hours below 45 degrees Fahrenheit to set fruit, so many varieties of cherries can only thrive in the northern states. However, there are a few varieties recommended for the south. Cherries thrive in well-draining soil, and clay-like soil should be amended to loosen up tight soil and add extra nutrients to barren soil.

HOW TO PLANT CHERRIES

Cherry trees should be planted 15-20 feet apart. The best time to plant is in the fall/winter (when the plant is dormant) or in the spring before your tree has leafed out for the season. To plant, dig a hole twice as wide and deep as needed. Mix a combination of 25% compost with 75% of your soil. Fill the bottom half of the hole around your plant with enough of your soil mix so that the surface of the root ball is flush with the ground. After planting, backfill the hole with the rest of your soil mixture and add more water to prevent air pockets.



MAINTENANCE

After planting, be sure to water your cherry tree every few days for the first two weeks. Once your plant has been established, it will only need to be watered when the soil has dried out. Avoid overwatering your tree as that can result in the roots becoming waterlogged. Cherry trees should produce fruit about 4-6 years after planting and under proper growing conditions. It is important to think about protecting the fruit from birds. This can be done simply by covering your tree with wildlife-safe netting.

COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

Japanese Beetles

Japanese beetles are medium-sized, iridescently colored beetles. They are half an inch in size and bright green-brown in color. Telltale signs of Japanese beetles are skeletonized leaves. These beetles eat the leaf tissue in between the veins, leaving only the skeleton of the leaf in its place. They are very dangerous to plants and should be removed immediately. You can remove them from your tree by hand-picking and dropping them into a water-soap solution, or spraying with neem oil.

Brown Rot

Brown rot is caused by the fungus *Monilinia fructicola*. The fungus will overwinter in fallen fruit and wake up in the springtime when the rains and warm weather form the ideal climate for brown rot. This disease damages shoots, twigs and fruit. During ripening and in storage after harvest, brown rot can spread quickly from one fruit to another until most of the fruit are inedible. To help defend your tree against Brown Rot, we suggest you keep the soil around the plant raked and clean. Prune your cherry so that the canopy allows for good air circulation. Copper fungicide has proved to be helpful in eliminating brown rot.

CHERRY VARIETIES GROWN IN THE SOUTH

Lapins - Self-fruitful, compatible to grow in zones 5-9, sweet cherry. Very good pollinator for southern cherries.

Royal Rainier- Fruit is yellow/orange. Taste test winner. Sweet. 500 chill hours

Craigs Crimson - Semi-dwarf. Self fruitful, grows in zones 5-9, sweet-spicy flavor.

Minnie Royal - Needs Royal Lee for pollination, grows in the deep south.

Stella - Self fruitful, grows in zones 4-8, juicy, sweet fruit.

BOB WELLS NURSERY

at Sorelle Farms



Instagram:

bobwellsnurserytx

Facebook:

@BobWellsNursery

Website:

bobwellsnursery.com

Email address:

customerservice@sorellefarms.com