EDIBLE

GARDENING

SERIES



Cherries

We carry both the semi dwarf and dwarf cherry trees. The semi-dwarf can grow to be 15 to 20 feet tall but can be kept at 12 feet. The dwarf cherries can grow to be about 8 to 10 feet tall but can be kept 6 to 8 feet tall.

EXPOSURE

Full sun to part shade.

PLANTING

We recommend Gardner & Bloome Soil Building Compost, Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer and Bonide Root n Grow and lime. See our Planting Guide for more information. Plant 10 to 15 feet apart for semidwarf cherry trees and 8 feet apart for dwarf cherry trees.

FERTILIZING

Use Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer at leaf swell and then again after fruit set. Be sure to use recommended rate stated on the box.

MULCHING

Apply 2 or 3 inches of Soil Building Compost in a 3-foot diameter around the base of the tree. This will help with moisture control, weed control and provide some nutrients for the tree. Apply in the spring and then again in the fall.

POLLINATION

Some cherry varieties are self-fertile like Lapins and Stella. They also act as a good pollinizer for other cherries. You need to plant 2 or more varieties for cross-pollination, unless otherwise noted. See our **Pollination Chart** for more information.

WATERING

Summer irrigation is important. Make sure water penetrates soil 6 to 8 inches. Watering is very important for fruit quality, quantity and flavor.

SPRAYING

Spray Bonide Copper and Bonide All Season Spray Oil in the winter, and a couple times in the early spring as weather permits. Bonide Copper and Bonide All Season Spray Oil need to be applied in 2 week intervals. See our **Spray Guide** for more information.

PRUNING

Delay dormant pruning. We recommend late spring blooming (May to June) or summer pruning. This will help avoid bacterial canker. Bacterial canker enters the trees through pruning wounds. It is also recommended using pruning sealer on your cherry trees. Cherries fruit on the previous season's wood. Each year you need to remove a quarter of the branches.

Birds love cherries, and they often get the cherries before you. Research shows the light gold colored cherries seem to be more resistant to birds. It is said they can't see them! We recommend netting your cherry trees. The dwarf cherry trees on the Gisela root stock make this chore easier as they only grow 8 to 10 feet tall and can be kept smaller with pruning.

HARVESTING

Harvest usually occurs in late June to July, depending on variety.

USES

Fresh eating, canning preserves, dried or frozen.

CHECK LIST

- Soil Building Compost
- Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer
- ☐ Bonide Root n Grow
- ☐ Lime
- Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer
- ☐ All Season Oil
- Bonide Copper Fungicide
- Bird Netting

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