



EDIBLE  
GARDENING  
SERIES

# European Pears

Sparkling white flowers in the early spring followed by delicious tasting fruit. Hardy to -30°F.

## EXPOSURE

Plant in full sun to part shade.

## PLANTING

We recommend **Gardener & Bloome Soil Building Compost**, **Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer**, **Bonide Root n Grow** and **lime**. Plant 15 feet apart. See our **Planting Guide** for more details.

## MULCHING

Apply a 2- to 3-inch layer of **Soil Building Compost** in a 3-foot diameter around your fruit trees. Apply in the spring and again in the fall. This helps with weed control (reducing competition for moisture and nutrients), moisture control and supplies some nutrients to the tree.

## POLLINATION

European Pears start blooming in late March to April. You will need to plant 2 different varieties of European pears for cross pollination, with the exception of the Seckel Pear and you will need two varieties plus the Seckel pear for pollination. Or if you have limited space you can plant a combination European Pear – see our **Combination Tree** handout.

## FERTILIZING

Fertilize in the spring at leaf break with **Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer**, and again after fruit set. Be sure to read the back of the box and use recommended rates.

## SPRAYING

Spray in the winter with **Dormant Spray**. See our **Dormant Spray Chart** for more information.

## PRUNING

European pears produce fruit on short twigs called spurs that grow between the branches. Removing older spurs will encourage the growth of younger spurs. Removing spurs is also a good way to limit fruit production. Limiting production will increase the size of remaining fruit.

## HARVESTING

Pears should be picked before they are fully ripe and ripened off the tree. Cup your hand under the pear and lift up. If the pears stem breaks, the pear is ready to pick. Harvest time is usually July through October. Pear trees can yield 50 pounds or more.

## USES

Fresh eating, dried, canning, juice, wine and preserves.

## CHECK LIST

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|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardener & Bloome Soil Building Compost | <input type="checkbox"/> Dormant Spray                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Earth Starter Fertilizer            | <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Earth Fruit Tree Fertilizer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bonide Root n Grow                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Tree stakes                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lime                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Chain lock                      |

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