



European Pear



European Pears from Grumblethorpe (POP).

Latin Name: *Pyrus communis*

Recommended Cultivars: Seckel, Potomac, Harrow, Shenandoah, Moonglow, Sunrise

Native region: Central and Eastern Europe, SW Asia

Growing Zones: 5-9

Mature Size: Depending on the rootstock, dwarf trees grow 8-10', semi-dwarfs grow 15-20', and standards grow 20-30'.

Pruning Tree Form: Central Leader

Pollination Requirements: Generally two different cultivars required, not all are compatible

Light Requirements: Full Sun

Harvest Window: Aug-Sept, depending on variety.

Maintenance Level: Moderate

Common Pest and Disease Issues: Fire Blight, Codling Moth, Pear Cedar Rust

Tree Care and Harvest



WATERING: Water twice a week for the first month, and once a week until dormant for the remainder of the year after planting. Aim for 7-10 gallons of water per week, per tree.



WINTER: Annual [winter pruning](#) is necessary during the plant's dormant period. Use branch spreaders to widen narrow crotch angles. Spray starting during bud stages (Feb or March) - [Serenade](#) for [fire blight](#); neem oil for pear/[apple cedar rust](#).



SPRING Support tree with biweekly feedings (spray or root drench) of compost tea or EM-1. Thin fruit to 5" apart in May/June. Pick up all dropped fruits.



SUMMER: Monitor trees weekly, especially in humid climates. Prune out fire blight 12" below any signs of it. Pick up dropped fruits. Keep 3' ring around tree weeded and mulched.



FALL: Late fall compost application. Prune out fire blight and pick up dropped fruits. Spray beneficial nematodes to help manage codling moth and plum curculio larvae in the soil.



Harvest: European Pears usually ripen in August or September. They should be picked when the ground color of the fruit has turned pale green to slightly yellow, but are still firm. If you wait to pick them until they actually soften, the quality will be poor and they'll quickly rot in storage. Summer pears are harvested earlier and can be kept at room temperature until ready to eat. Winter pears are harvested later and should be placed in cold storage (44° or below) for at least three weeks before they are ready to eat.