The Guide to Fruit Pollination

Which fruit need pollinators?

Apples need pollinators, cherry do not. How are you supposed to know if plants need pollinators or not! Let us alleviate the confusion behind pollination for varieties often planted in our area.

Fruit That Need Pollinators

Apple

Yes, apples need a pollinator. While usually you will be told just another apple, but it should be an apple that is flowering at the same time, not of the same variety or related to the variety. For example, Honeycrisp should not be used to pollinate Honeygold apple.

Pear

Pear has specific varieties that pollinate best. For those grown commonly in our area, Parker pollinates Summercrisp; while Patten is a good pollinator for Luscious. Golden Spice Pear is considered a pollinator for most varieties.

Plum

Most varieties of plum require pollinators. Toka will pollinate many varieties. Mount Royal Plum is the only variety that we grow in this area that does not require a pollinator.

Honeyberry

This is another variety that requires specific pollinators.

Berry Blue and Cinderella pollinate:

- Tundra
- Borealis
- Indigo Gem

Blueberry

Blueberry are considered partial self fruitful. While you will probably have fruit produced without a pollinator, it is best to plant another plant of a different variety that flowers at the same time to pollinate blueberries.

Self Pollinating Varieties

The following varieties are considered self pollinating. While you do not need any additional plants planted for pollination at times yields will be higher if another variety is planted also.

Peach

Strawberry

Raspberry

Cherry

Grape

Chokecherry

Serviceberry

Gooseberry

The distance between plants for pollination is anywhere from 25-300 feet, (however some will say within a ¼ mile). Having pollinators close will increase the likelihood of good fruit set and higher yields.

Photo Credit: Bailey Nursery