

FRUIT TREE & VINEYARD PROJECT
2011 GROWING SEASON
PEAR VARIETIES
DESCRIPTIONS, EVALUATIONS and RATINGS

By: Dan Fernandez, retired Dolores County Director, Colorado State University Extension
with Kim Dillivan, Dolores County Director, Colorado State University Extension

Max Red Bartlett: Planted 1996.

Tree growth is satisfactory with a very limited crop in 1999, no fruit in 2000 but a nice crop in 2001 with moderate fruit sizes. 3 freezes in early 2002 did NOT affect this variety. Excellent crop with most fruit harvested before the 2003 hail. Hail in July 2004 damaged the excellent crop. Large Crop in 2005. Late freeze did not affect the large crop in 2006 & 2007. Limited Crop due to 2008 freeze, large crop 2009 & 2010 but late maturing. Production of 150 lbs in 2010 and 50 lbs in 2011 (per tree).

***** RATING**

Du Comice: Planted 1996.

Excellent dessert pear with a rich, juicy flavor. Its flesh is tender, smooth and the fruit is large, color clear yellow. Tree growth is satisfactory and we finally had our first moderate crop in 2001, with medium sizes, but crop was off the tree before data could be collected. Large Crop in 2005 raised rating ½ point in 2005. Late freeze did not affect the large crops in 2006, 2007 & 2008. Large but late maturing crop in 2009 & 2010. Production of 100 lbs in 2010 and 150 lbs in 2011 (per tree).

***** RATING**

D'Anjou: Planted 1997.

Firm, juicy with excellent flavor. Excellent storage capabilities. Tree growth is satisfactory with limited production through the 2004 season. Most fruit was harvested before the 2003 hail. Hail in July 2004 damaged the crop. Large Crop in 2005 and raised rating ½ point. Late freeze did not affect the large crop in 2006 but did reduce the 2007 crop. Good 2008 crop and large 2009 & 2010 crop but late maturing. Raising rating ½ point in 2010 due to good cropping. Production of 100 lbs per tree in 2010 and 2011.

***** RATING**

Bronze Beauty: Planted 1997.

Fruit is medium to large with a russet that takes on a bronze color when ripe. Tree is vigorous and large, exhibiting a spreading habit. Tree growth is satisfactory. Limited crop in 2001, none in 2002 and small crop in 2003 and 2004. Most fruit was harvested before the 2003 hail. Hail in July 2004 damaged the crop. Large Crop in 2005 and 2006 with a moderate crop in 2007. Good 2008 crop and large late maturing crop in 2009 & 2010. Production of 125 lbs in 2010 and 100 lbs in 2011 (per tree).

****½ RATING**

NOTES:

In 2009 and 2010, we had a very cool May and June which apparently delayed the maturity of the Pears nearly 4 weeks with a late September harvest for all varieties.

We did have a small outbreak of Fire Blight in 2007, but immediate action of pruning out the infected wood, complete cleanup of leaves and debris and several applications of Streptomycin have apparently taken care of the problem for now. We did not see any evidence of the disease in 2009 and 2010.

All pear varieties are subject to severe attacks from the Pear Slug. Regular pest monitoring and timely sprays must be applied to avoid leaf skeletonization and defoliation. It is also important to remember that pears take several years to come into production. It may take 6 to 7 years after planting before you see the first significant crop.

ROOTSTOCKS

Old Home x Farmingdale rootstock (O.H. x F.): is hardy well-anchored and productive. Produces a semi-dwarf tree.

Old Home x Farmingdale #97 rootstock (O.H. x F.#97):

SPECIAL NOTES

RATING SCALE - 5 STARS *** EXCELLENT POTENTIAL
4 STARS **** VERY GOOD POTENTIAL
3 STARS *** GOOD POTENTIAL
2 STARS ** POOR POTENTIAL
1 STAR * FORGETABOUTIT**

Refer to the enclosed production records for specific yield information.

FRUIT TREE & VINEYARD PROJECT
2011 GROWING SEASON
PEACH VARIETIES
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J.H. Hale: THIS VARIETY HAS BEEN ELIMINATED FROM THE VARIETY TRIAL. FRUIT MATURES TOO LATE FOR SW COLORADO AND THE TREES CONTINUALLY SUFFERED FROM WINTER INJURY. * RATING

Redskin: THIS VARIETY HAS BEEN ELIMINATED FROM THE VARIETY TRIAL. FRUIT MATURES TOO LATE FOR SW COLORADO AND THE TREES CONTINUALLY SUFFERED FROM WINTER INJURY. * RATING

Red Globe: 1996 Planting.

Firm yellow flesh with good flavor. Has a bright skin color and is excellent for canning and freezing. Fruit tends to mature in LATE August. Good initial growth but Spring, 1999 & 2000 freezes eliminated the crop. Good crop in 2001, 2002 and 2003 with excellent size. Most fruit was harvested before the 2003 hail. Hail in July 2004 damaged the excellent crop. Large Crop in 2005 & 2006. Limited crop in 2007 and large crop in 2008. Large crop in 2009 but some freeze crop loss in 2010. Late September harvest 2010 - see notes. Production of 100 lbs in 2010 and 150 lbs in 2011 (per tree).

***** RATING**

Flamin' Fury series PF#15A: 1996 Planting.

Large red fruit that has good flavor and shipping qualities. The trees are very winter hardy and fruit tends to mature in MID August. Good initial growth, but Spring, 1999 & 2000 freezes eliminated the crop. Good crop in 2001, 2002 and 2003 with excellent size. Most fruit was harvested before the 2003 hail. Hail in July 2004 damaged the excellent crop. Large Crop in 2005 & 2006. Limited crop in 2007 and large crop in 2008. Large crop in 2009 but late harvest mid September - see notes. Excellent crop in 2010 but it matured 2 weeks before our other varieties. Production of 200 lbs in 2010 but only 75 lbs in 2011 (per tree).

***** RATING**

Starfire, (FA 11): 1999 Planting.

Very large, solid red peach with clear yellow flesh. Fruit shape is round with a slight tendency for a high shoulder. Shipping and eating quality is reported to be outstanding. Fruit tends to mature in LATE August. Planted in spring 1999, these trees did not fare well with the Spring 1999 cold snaps with several trees dying. In 2001, 2002 and 2003 there was a limited crop with good tree development. Most fruit was harvested before the 2003 hail. Hail in July 2004 damaged the excellent crop. Large Crop in 2005 & 2006. Limited crop in 2007 and large crop in 2008. Large crop in 2009, but in 2010 a late harvest mid September - see notes. Production of 200 lbs in 2010 but only 50 lbs in 2011 (per tree).

****½ RATING**

Suncrest: 1999 Planting.

Fruit is large, round and has a light pubescence. About two thirds of the surface is covered with a bright, red blush over a yellow background color. Yellow flesh, firm but melting, and of good texture and color. Fruit tends to mature in LATE August. All the trees survived the Spring 1999 freezes and developed normally for newly planted trees. In 2001, 2002 and 2003 there was a limited crop with good tree development. Most fruit was harvested before the 2003 hail. Hail in July 2004 damaged the excellent crop. Large Crop in 2005 & 2006. No Crop in 2007 and large crop in 2008. Large crop in 2009, but in 2010 but late harvest in September - see notes. Production of 100 lbs in 2010 and 75 lbs in 2011 (per tree).

***** RATING.**

Notes:

In 2009 & 2010, we had a very cool May and June which apparently delayed the maturity of the Peaches nearly 4 weeks (except the Flaming Fury in 2010) with a mid-late September harvest.

Also in 2009, we started to see advancing trunk damage on many of the peaches due to Cytospora Canker. This will eventually limit the lifespan of these trees.

Only use ½ inch caliper or less nursery stock for new plantings.

The only rootstock currently being evaluated on all varieties is Certified Peach.

SPECIAL NOTES

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4 STARS **** VERY GOOD POTENTIAL
3 STARS *** GOOD POTENTIAL
2 STARS ** POOR POTENTIAL
1 STAR * FORGETABOUTIT

Refer to the enclosed production records for specific yield
information.

FRUIT TREE & VINEYARD PROJECT
2011 GROWING SEASON
PLUM VARIETIES
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EMPRESS - Myro: Planted 2008

Large fruit similar to President but a better blue color. Yellow flesh with fine texture and late ripening. Initial growth is very good and still evaluating for a rating. 20 lbs per tree in 2011.

IMPROVED DUARTE - Myro: Planted 2008

Extra large fruit, heart shaped with a flesh that is blood red. Initial growth is very good and still evaluating for a rating. 20 lbs per tree in 2011.

PRESIDENT - Myro: Planted 2008

Large fruit with blue skin and yellow fine textured flesh. *****In 2010, this variety suffered significant die-back and freeze damage all the way to the main scaffold limbs which required substantial reconstructive pruning.** Recovery growth was very good but we have to keep an eye on this one. No production in 2010 or 2011.

NOTES: In 2011, we did see a few plums and are expecting a harvestable crop in 2012.