

## Minor Fruits

From Cornell University Extension

These under-used trees and shrubs are good for landscaping as well as fruit.

You likely won't find the fruits that follow in the grocery store. For one reason or another, they aren't suited to commercial production and marketing. About the only way you'll enjoy their unique flavors is to grow them yourself. As a bonus, many of these trees and bushes make fine landscape plants.

Gooseberries and Currants - Hardy and easy to grow, these sweet-tart fruits make excellent jams, pies, and jellies.

Elderberries - Rich in phosphorus, potassium, and Vitamin C. Elderberry plants are generally free of pests, which makes them great for landscape plantings

Hardy Kiwifruit - Similar in flavor to commercially grown varieties, yet smaller, smoother, and easier to eat.

Persimmons - Attractive fall foliage, brightly colored fruit, and bark with interesting texture make persimmons a good accent plant in landscaping.

Pawpaws - Also called the Poor Man's Banana, pawpaws are the largest edible fruit native to America.

Mulberries - Used for jelly, wine and desserts, these berries can be easily gathered by covering the ground with a sheet or canvas and shaking the tree.

Juneberries - Also known as shadbush, Alleghany serviceberry, sugar pear and Saskatoon, there are more than 25 species native to North America.

Cornelian Cherries - The only species of dogwood that produces edible fruit, Cornelian Cherries deliver twice as much Vitamin C by weight as oranges.

Beach Plums - This native shrub is common to coastal sand dunes from Maryland to southern Maine and is often used to make jams and jellies.

Highbush Cranberries - Known as the American Cranberry Bush. Makes a great hedge or privacy screen.

Buffaloberries - Early settlers served these berries as a sauce with buffalo meat. A silvery appearance and attractive fruit make this plant a pleasing ornamental.

Quinces - Fragrant yellow fruit commonly used to make jelly.

## Fruit Resources

**Fruit Resources:** new production and management guides are online, or can be purchased as bulletins from Ohio State University Extension: Midwest Home Fruit Production Guide <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b940/index.html> (2009) and Midwest Small Fruit Pest Management Handbook <http://ohioline.osu.edu/b861/index.html> (2004)

Basics, especially for beginning gardeners: <http://migarden.msu.edu/>

This MSU site has a newsletter for commercial growers, updated frequently during the growing season, but also links to lots of good fruit info at MSU and elsewhere also great pocket scouting guides for identifying problems are also available for purchase and online <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/fruit.htm>, <http://www.ipm.msu.edu/stonefruit.htm>,

Southwest Michigan Research & Extension Center near Benton Harbor, has a web site maintained by Bill Shane.

Northwest Michigan Horticultural Research Station maintained by Bill Klein, is strong in cherries. This site has many articles of interest to cherry growers.

Trevor Nichol Research Complex located near Fenneville is dedicated to researching fruit pest and disease control.

Cornell University Extension fruit resource pages for commercial growers: <http://www.hort.cornell.edu/extension/commercial/fruit/index.html>