

Butterfield Green Community Orchard:

Apple trees

Flowering seasons

Most apple trees need a partner tree nearby for pollination, as they are not self-fertile. A few, like James Grieve, can be planted on their own but do better with a partner of a different variety. The partners need to flower at the same time, so apple trees are divided into 4 groups, depending when they flower: **A = early**; **B = mid-season**; **C = mid-late season**; **D = late**.

Fruit

Fruit is dessert or culinary, or dual-purpose. Crab apples are self-fertile, but tend to be too bitter to eat (though some are not too bad) and are often used to make a jelly-like jam.

Tree no.	Apple tree name, type and season	Apple tree: notes
1	George Cave dessert A	Pick in August. Crops heavily. Eat within one week. Perhaps the best early, a small crisp nicely flavoured fruit, greenish with an orangey-red flush. Strong, sweet, sharp taste. Raised 1923 by George Cave at Dovercourt, Essex. Named 1945.
18	Cox's Pomona dual purpose D	Pick September. Stores until December. Sweet sub-acid fine flavour. Raised c. 1825 by Richard Cox in Slough, believed to be a pip from the same mother apple as Cox's Orange Pippin.
3	Merton Beauty dessert D	Pick: mid September. Eat within two weeks. Fine textured with distinctly aniseed flavour. Raised in 1933 by Mr. Crane at the John Innes Institute in Merton, South London.
4	Merton Russet dessert C	Pick October. Stores until March. A large russet, notably colourful in flower. Raised 1921 by Mr. Crane in Merton South London. Named 1943.
14	Flower of Kent cooker F	Late keeping. The falling apple that Isaac Newton watched, grown from his tree! First recorded in Kent in 1629, but likely to be earlier.
17	Rev. W. Wilks cooker/ dual purpose A	Pick August. Stores until November. A large creamy-white apple, tender, tangy and an excellent baker. Raised by the Reverend in 1904 as a rival to Bramley, won RHS First Class Certificate in 1910. It has a high fruit yield, but it is a biennial fruit-bearer, so every other year there is a small crop.
2	D'Arcy Spice dessert D	Pick October. Stores until January. Found in the garden of The Hall in Tolleshunt D'Arcy, Essex c. 1785, but may have even earlier origins. Bright green becoming gold with red flush; spicy, nutmeg flavour.
15	Hormead Pearmain cooker B	Pick November. Stores until March. Juicy and acid. Raised in Hormead, Hertfordshire*, and first recorded in 1826. *as was Ru Litherland from Growing Communities who sourced most of the orchard trees.
8	Cox's Orange	Pick October. Stores through the winter till January. Aromatic, firm,

	dessert B	juicy flesh. Needs the good growing conditions found in the South, and good soil.
9	James Grieve dessert B - partly self-fertile	Pick early September and eat in September-October. Yellow fruit, speckled and striped with orange. Soft, juicy and tangy flesh. A reliable and hardy tree.
12	John Downie crab apple self-fertile	Pick October. Heavy early spring pink and white blossom. Fruit conical and bright yellow and red. Can be eaten or made into jelly.
13	Evereste crab apple self-fertile	Pick November. French origin, happy in cooler weather. Long-lasting white blossom; prolific round red acid fruit. Good for jelly.

Cherry trees

Flowering seasons

Like apples, most cherries are not self-fertile (new self-fertile varieties have been imported from Canada). Most traditional cherries need partners flowering at the same time and compatible with that particular cherry tree.

Fruit

Cherries are divided into **acid** (or cooking), **sweet** (or dessert) and **duke** (a cross between the two)

Tree no	Cherry tree name, type and fertility	Cherry tree notes
33 34	Early Rivers sweet requires partner	Pick mid-June. The fruit is very large and a near-black dark purple-red. It was introduced toward the end of the 19 th century and is still popular due to its excellent flavour and heavy cropping. A vigorous tree.

Hazelnut Trees

Types of hazelnut trees

Cobnuts and filberts are both species of hazelnuts. They are small trees which bear different male flowers – the catkins – and female flowers – small red flowers – on the same tree.

Flowering

Two varieties of a species are necessary for good pollination.

Tree no	Hazelnut tree name and type	Hazel tree notes
6	White Filbert Filbert	French in origin, excellent flavour. Medium-sized nuts with a thin shell. Good yields in mid-August/Sept.
23 24	Lamberts Filbert Filbert	Prolific nut-bearing. Long, large nuts in October.

Medlar Trees

These trees produce exotic-looking fruit, but are native to Europe and have been popular in orchards since the Middle Ages.

Tree no	Medlar tree name	Medlar tree notes
7	Nottingham	Pick in October. An attractive small tree with a spreading semi-weeping habit. The flowers are large and pure white and

		the hairy leaves turn a russet/ copper colour in autumn. This tree, like all medlars produces hard green fruits which go brown on the tree. The skin is hard when they are picked. The fruit are then kept to 'blet' (decay!) for 3 weeks until they are ready to eat – the soft, sweet flesh is scooped out with a spoon.
11	Dutch	Pick in November. This tree, like all medlars produces hard green fruits which go brown on the tree. The skin is hard when they are picked. The fruit are then kept for 3 weeks to 'blet' (decay!) until they are ready to eat – the soft, sweet flesh is scooped out with a spoon.

Peach and Nectarine Trees

Flowering

Peach and nectarine trees grow best in the South of England. They can cope with cold winters, but they need pollinating insects – or a helpful hand from their adopter – when the flowers open. This can be as early as February. They are all self-fertile.

Tree no	Name of peach /nectarine tree and type	Notes on peach/nectarine trees
16	Early Rivers Nectarine	Pick in late July. These nectarines are among the first to ripen and are large with yellow skin, streaked with red. They have yellow juicy flesh with a good flavour. The tree fruits well in sun.
29	Duke of York Peach	Pick in mid-July. These peaches are large with yellow and crimson skin. The fruit is excellent quality – juicy and with a refreshing flavour. It crops well in sun.

Pear Trees

Flowering seasons

Like apples, pears are not normally self-fertile. They need pollination partners flowering at the same time. The flowering times are divided into 3 groups: **A = early; B = mid-season; C = late.**

Fruit

Pears are usually dessert trees but can be culinary or dual purpose.

Tree no	Name of pear tree, season and type	Pear tree notes
5 19 20	Fertility dual purpose partly self-fertile B/C	Pick in late September and use to the end of October. The fruit is small and yellow, with russet patches. It has a good flavour and a firm, granular texture. A hardy and prolific tree.
21	Concorde dessert C	Pick in late October and eat through to November/December. It is a variety grown in East Malling, from the parents <i>Conference</i> and <i>Doyenne du Comice</i> . It is a heavy-cropping tree, producing medium-sized pale green pears with melting, good-flavoured flesh.
22	Beth	Pick in late August and eat in September. The fruit is small-

	dessert B	medium (too variable for commercial growers) and is pale yellow with spots of russet. It has white, melting flesh with a good flavour. The tree is reliable and heavy-cropping
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Plum Trees

Flowering seasons

Many plums are self-fertile, but others, like apples and pears, need a partner, flowering at the same time, to pollinate. Plum trees are divided into 3 flowering seasons: **A = early; B = mid-season; C = late.**

Fruit

Plums may be dessert, culinary or dual purpose. Bullaces (once grown in hedgerows) damsons, gages, and mirabelles are related to plums.

Tree no	Name, type and season of plum tree	Notes on plum trees
10	Thames Cross dual purpose C	Pick September. Useful for cooking or jam-making but of good dessert quality when ripened. Raised at Long Ashton near Bristol c.1938.
30	Czar dual purpose B	Pick July/ early August. Purple skin with yellowish-green flesh. A good cooker, but can be eaten as a dessert plum when ripe. Raised by Rivers of Sawbridgeworth, Essex. First fruited in 1874. Named after the Russian Czar who was visiting the country at the time. A reliable heavy cropper
31	Merton Gem Dual purpose C	Pick September. Red-purple skin, sweet enough to eat, but also good cooked. Grown in Merton, London in 1923.
27 28	Victoria dual purpose B – self-fertile	Pick early August. The plums are large with warm red and yellowish-red skins. The flesh is yellowish-green and juicy. A reliable tree, which requires thinning to crop heavily.
32	Mirabelle de Nancy Mirabelle – dessert B	Pick late July - August. Fruits have golden, rather dry but sweet flesh. Thought to have come from the East to France in the 1400s.

Quince trees

Fruit

Quince trees look exotic, with gnarled trunk and branches, grey bark and tough leaves, but are European. The fruit is never eaten raw, but is delicious if cooked with apples or made into a preserve.

Tree no	Quince name	Quince tree notes
25	Bereczki	Pick in October-November. Store the fruit until it is intense yellow. The fruits are large and golden, pear-shaped. Makes especially good jelly. Also called Vranja , after its place of origin in Serbia.
26	Meeches Prolific	Pick in October, before the first frosts, and store until the fruit changes from green to yellow – from 4 to 8 weeks. Pear shape fruit, slow growing and often cropping when only three years old. USA 1880.