

CHERRIES

(Mid to Late June)

Description: Sour and sweet varieties of cherries produce clusters of small, round fruits on long stems. Sweet cherries are generally deep or bright red in color, the exception being the yellowish hues of Rainier cherries, and sour cherries are often brighter shades of red.



You know cherries are ready when:

- The fruit is plump and juicy and has reached its full color.
- The stems detach from the branches easily.
- Sweet cherries taste sweet.

[Schedule a harvest.](#)

We can't harvest if

- The load is too low. Must be at least **50 lbs** of fruit.
- The fruit is **overripe**.
- There is too much **pest damage** to the fruit.

Maintaining Your Cherry Tree:

- **Pruning:** When pruning, be careful not to remove the short spurs growing off the branches, as those are the part of the tree that bears fruit.
- **Watering:** Young trees need extra water to grow, while all fruit trees need additional water during periods of hot, dry weather. Thoroughly soak the soil around your fruit trees every other week. Mulching around the base of your tree can help retain soil moisture as well.
- **Harvesting:** Cherries will not ripen off of the tree; they must be picked ripe. When picking cherries, leave the stems attached to the fruit to maintain freshness longer.
- **Disease & Pest Control:**
 - The most common pest afflicting both sour and sweet cherries in Utah is the western cherry fruit fly. Damage from this pest can be seen in the photos on the right. Though cherries can still be eaten and/or processed with minor presence of this pest, too much damage can render the fruit inedible and unable to be donated.
 - Our pest control service includes nets which can lessen the impact of the western cherry fruit fly on your cherry tree. Sign up for our pest control service [here](#).
 - For more information on the western cherry fruit fly and on other minor pests that may affect your cherry tree, [click here](#).



To sign up for our tree care services, which including pruning, fertilizing, and pest control, [click here](#).

Other Cherry Information:

- Common varieties of sweet cherries in Utah include Bing, Rainier, and Stella. The most common variety of sour cherry is Montmorency.
- Cherry trees fruit best in full sun.

Picking & Storage Tips:

- Store ripe cherries uncovered in the refrigerator and use within a week. Wash and remove stems just before use/eating.
- Cherries can also be dried, frozen, or canned. [Click here](#) for more information on preserving cherries.



Resources:

- [USU Extension](#)
- [Not Far From the Tree](#)
- *The Fruit Gardener's Bible*, Hill & Perry (2011)



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