

# **Fruit Trees – Selection and Care**

## **Basics of Fruit Trees**

- Eastern Washington vs. Western Washington – heating and chilling hours
- Location with at least 6 hours of sun in summer
- Spacing, air circulation and sunshine – find balance and leave room!
- Soils and drainage
- Fertilizing and dormant spraying
- Grafting and rootstocks – try combinations (no plums) or espaliers to save space
- Self-fertile? Need a pollinator? Make sure you get ones that work with each other!
- Disease resistance and genetics
- Yearly fertilizing, watering and maintenance

## **Apples/Pears/Asian Pears**

- Discussion of growth and bud types
- Dwarf and mini dwarf available – M26 and M27 rootstocks on Apples
- All require cross pollination
- Note newer apples like “Cosmic Crisp” and “Sunrise Magic”, crosses of pears like “Reddy Robin” and “Maxie”
- Common bugs and diseases to watch out for on apples and pears

## **Cherries**

- Discussion of growth and bud types
- Dwarf cherries on patented Gisela rootstocks
- Excellent self-fertile varieties like Glacier, Lapins, Black Gold, Tehranivee and Stella
- Excellent bush cherries like Carmine Jewel, Juliet, Romeo and Crimson Passion
- Common insects and diseases to watch out for on cherries

### **Peaches/Apricots/Nectarines/Plums**

- Discussion of growth and bud types
- Specific spraying and pruning tips
- All available on dwarf rootstocks
- Remember all European plums are self-fertile
- Remember all Japanese plums require cross pollination
- Common insects and diseases to watch out for

### **Lots of other specialty fruits and nuts to try!**

- Filberts – we carry only new Filbert Blight immune varieties
- Walnuts and Hardy Almonds
- Figs that grow well around Puget Sound
- Persimmons to consider trying – Asian, Russian, and American

**Having a “home orchard” is easy and rewarding. Remember to use natural and organic products – especially with edibles  
Go Green!**