Growing Pears
Presented by Ross Penhallegon

Pears: *Pyrus communis.*
- Life expectancy is 20 years
- Prefers hot weather
- Slightly self-fruitful
- Somewhat tolerant of wet soils

Pear Types
- European
  - Bartlett, red Bartlett, Bosc, Seckle
- Winter
  - Anjou, Comice, Neils
  - Store 6-8 weeks
- Asian

Rootstocks
- Old Home X Farmingdale
- Quince - often not as healthy
- Keep to around 12’ tall

See PNW 341 “Choosing Pear Rootstocks for the Pacific Northwest”

Pear Varieties

Vigor
- Comice
- Anjou
- Bosc
- Bartlett
- Eldorado

Bloom order
- Seckel
- Bartlett
- Eldorado
- Anjou
- Comice
- Bosc

Seckel and Bartlett are pollen-incomplete
Pear

- Spacing
  - Dwarf: 8’ to 15’
  - Standard: 10’ to 25’
- Thinning - same as apples
- Fertilization - see Fertilizer Guide FG 66 “Home Fruit, Vegetable, and Ornamental Gardens”

Diseases

- Pear scab
  - summer lime sulfur
  - captan
  - wetable sulfur
- Coast cedar rust
- Fire blight - rare in the Willamette Valley
- Anthracnose
- Powdery Mildew

Pear Scab

Rust

Fire Blight

Anthracnose
Powdery Mildew

Insects & Other Pests
- Codling moth
- Bt
- Methoxychlor
- Malathion
- Imidan
- pear psylla
- scale
- aphids

See Spray Schedule EC 631 “Controlling Diseases and Insects in Home Orchards”

Codling Moth

Psylla

Oystershell Scale

Woolly Aphids
Blister Mite

Oblique Banded Leafroller

Pearslug

Pruning

- multiple leaders are most common
- pinch tips to create branching
- spread to avoid branch inclusion

Table 2.—Maturity dates for pears.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Cold storage before ripen</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clapps Favorite</td>
<td>Early Aug.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bartlett</td>
<td>Aug. 10-20</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seckel</td>
<td>Late Aug., Sept.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bosc</td>
<td>Early to mid-Sept.</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D’Anjou</td>
<td>Early to mid-Sept.</td>
<td>2 mo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comice</td>
<td>Late Sept.</td>
<td>1 mo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Packham’s Triumph</td>
<td>Late Sept., Oct.</td>
<td>1 mo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forelle</td>
<td>Late Sept.</td>
<td>1 mo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weiner Nellis</td>
<td>Early Oct.</td>
<td>1 mo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Harvest Dates

Pear Bloom
Asian Pears

- *Pyrus ussuriensis* and *pyrifolia*
- called pear-apples
- very ornamental
- ripen on the tree
- self-fertile
- rootstocks - often on own rootstock or *Pyrus betulifolia* (see PNW 341, (“Choosing Pear Rootstocks for the Pacific Northwest”))
- bloom dates - same as pears

Asian Pears cont.

- Spacing: same as pears
- Fertilizer: same as pears
- Diseases: like pears
  - more susceptible to fire blight and *Pseudomonas*
  - pear scab: one summer lime sulfur or wettable sulfur application

More on Asian Pears

- Insects and Other Pests
  - codling moth: Bt, fruit and berry sprays, Imidan
- Pruning: multiple leader but difficult to figure out
- Harvest dates: see chart
### Asian Pear Varieties
- **Chojuro** - fruit quality good to excellent, oblong, russeted, lopsided, mid-season
- **Kikusui** - good to very good, mid-season, oblong, lopsided, medium to large, conspicuous raised dots
- **Nijisseiki (20th Century)** - good to excellent, mid-season, often in the grocery store, round to oblong
- **Shinseiki** - excellent, early, round to oblong
- **Yali** - good to excellent, mid-season, medium to large, pear shaped

### Pear Pest Control
- Similar to apple
- **Pseudomonas blight** - Fixed copper (late fall and dormant)
- **Fireblight**
  - Pruning
  - Copper sulfate and oil, Bordeaux

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**20th Century**

**THE END**