



# Asian and European Pears

## Planting Specifications



- 12-15' semi-dwarf
- E. Pear native to Eastern Europe and Central Asian, A. Pear native to East Asia
- Must have at least two different varieties for cross pollination.
- E. Pear Varieties: Harrow's Delight, Moonglow, Summercrisp, Sunrise, Blake's Pride, Honey Sweet, Potomac, Harrow Sweet
- A. Pear Varieties: Shinsui, Shinseiki, Kosui, Chojuro, Yoinashi, Shinko, Korean Giant

## Common Pests and Diseases

*Other diseases or pests may be present, but these are the ones most common in St. Louis.*

**Codling Moth and Oriental Fruit Moth:** Eat the fruit from the inside, small and gray/brown in color

*Treatment:* Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, Bt sprays, sunflower companion planting

**Aphids:** Widespread damage, small green insects

*Treatment:* Companion planting, insecticidal soap, hand pick and remove/crush

**Fire Blight:** Bacterial disease, identified by black curled leaves, flowers, and branches

*Treatment:* Removing diseased plant material, Monterey Complete Disease Control as a preventative

## Gateway Greening Classes and Resources

**Neem oil spray** - Available for purchase from our Gateway Greening Store

**Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)** - Available for purchase from our Gateway Greening Store

**Holistic Sprays**- Recipes and ingredients available to Giving Grove projects

**Orchard Classes**- Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Schedules available on our website and Facebook page

**Companion plant recommendations**- handout available on website

## Timeline of Care

### Spring Care

- Application of four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (*Late February to Mid-May*)
- Complete the big yearly pruning and remove any branches infected by fireblight prior to foliage appearing (*Late February to Mid-March*)
- Remove any tree wraps placed in winter (*Early April*)
- For the first three years, remove all fruitlets to prevent fruit production (*Late April to Early May*)
- After three years, thin the fruits so that there is only the two largest fruitlets per cluster (*Prior to fourth holistic spray*)

### Summer Care

- Complete a second thinning of the fruitlets so that there is the best fruitlet per cluster, one every 5 inches (*Mid-May to June*)
- Summer prune your pear trees to increase sun penetration and improve color, ideally during a dry period (*August*)

### Fall Care

- Harvest when fruits are ready! Pears will continue to ripen off of the tree, so harvest when the pear easily breaks off of the tree (*August through November*)
- While harvesting, remove any mummified fruits and dispose of outside of the orchard to prevent disease spread (*September through November*)
- Cut back or harvest allium companion plant (*September through November*)
- Remove or shred all fallen leaves to prevent diseases from spreading (*Mid-October to November*)
- Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed of (*November*)
- Install tree wraps to protect trees from rabbits and voles (*Late November*)
- Add a new layer of mulch to the base of the tree (*November*)

### Ongoing Care

- During the first full growing season, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain. After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts
- Weed the mulch ring
- Plant any desired companion plants to benefit the orchard ecosystem (*Spring or Fall*)
- Scout for pests and remove any fallen or diseased fruit