



## Pear Pollination Chart

Pears need to cross-pollinate with another pear variety for good fruit set, and both must be in bloom at the same time. Select a cultivar in the left column and read across the chart to choose pollination partners. Blank squares indicate reliable pollination partners. **This chart includes cultivars not carried at Sky Nursey this year for your convenience in finding pollination partners.** See reverse for more information on pollination.

Usually the earliest to bloom	Usually the third group to bloom	Will not pollinate
Usually the second group to bloom	Usually the last to bloom	X Bloom times may not overlap

Select a cultivar below. Read across to see how good other cultivars are as pollination partners.	Anjou European, late	Bartlett European, early	Bosc European, late	Chojuro Asian, late	Clapp's Favorite	Colette European, early	Combination European	Combination Asian	Comice European, late	Early Gold, mid	Flemish Beauty, mid	Golden Spice	Hosui Asian, early	Kosui Asian, late	Nijiseiki Asian, late	Orcas European, late	Red Bartlett, Europ.,	Red Clapp, European,	Rescue European, early	Shinglo Asian	Shinko Asian	Shinseiki Asian	Ubileen European, early
Anjou				X				X					X	X	X					X	X	X	
Bartlett													X							X	X	X	
Bosc				X				X					X	X	X					X	X	X	
Chojuro Asian	X		X		X				X		X	X				X		X					
Clapp's Favorite				X				X					X	X	X					X	X	X	
Colette													X							X	X	X	
Combination European																							
Combination Asian																							
Comice				X				X					X	X	X					X	X	X	
Early Gold													X							X	X	X	
Flemish Beauty				X				X					X	X	X					X	X	X	
Golden Spice				X				X					X	X	X					X	X	X	
Hosui Asian	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X				X
Kosui Asian	X		X		X				X		X	X				X		X					
Nijiseiki Asian	X		X		X				X		X	X				X		X					
Orcas				X				X					X	X	X					X	X	X	
Red Bartlett (Sensation)													X							X	X	X	
Red Clapp's Favorite				X				X					X	X	X					X	X	X	
Rescue													X							X	X	X	
Shinglo Asian	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X				X
Shinko Asian	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X				X
Shinseiki Asian	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X				X
Ubileen													X							X	X	X	

Pears need to be pollinated by insects to set fruit. In much of the world honeybees are the most common pear tree pollinator. In the maritime Northwest, particularly in cold, wet springs, Orchard Mason Bees are often more reliable. See Sky's Orchard Mason Bee information sheet for how to promote healthy populations of these insects, and remember NEVER to spray your trees when they are in bloom—you can kill the bees whose pollination you rely on.

In general, the bees need to transfer pollen between pears of **different varieties** to get cross-pollination and good fruit set. (Early Gold is the exception; it is self-fertile.) You can plant two different trees if you have room, or purchase a “combination” tree that has multiple varieties grafted onto one trunk.

Note that some sources list some other cultivars as “self-fertile” or “partially self-fertile.” This ability is apparently partly dependent on good/warm spring weather, and we do not recommend relying on this in the Pacific Northwest!

Asian pears and European pears will cross pollinize, but they don't always overlap in bloom.

Sky divides pears into four general blooming groups (data taken from the Mount Vernon Fruit Research Station where available.) Blooming varies from year to year, but most springs the same varieties tend to run early or late. The more the bloom times overlap, the better for pollination. Note that Asian varieties almost all start blooming (and in some cases finish!) before most European varieties.

Please note that pear blossom nectar has a low sugar content and is less attractive to bees than some other sources. Clearing out dandelions and other wildflowers/weeds blooming at the same time as your pears may improve pollination.