SMALL FRUIT PRODUCTION IN COLORADO Options for the Front Range

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EXTREME & UNUSUAL WINTER IMPACTS TO FRUIT

Our experience in Douglas County

Winter Damage 2014-2015

- November 50-70° F single-day drop
 - i after Indian summer
 - i only light frosts previously
 - Plants & trees not hardened off
- Wide-spread damage—even to normally hardy varieties
- Reports of 20-year old trees dying

Winter Damage 2014-2015

4 YEAR-OLD PLUM KILLED LAST WINTER

PLUM DAMAGED LAST WINTER





Peach—Partial Survival in Protected Area



Fruit Trees—Damage Assessment Franktown (6050')

- Stone Fruits—Heavy damage & die off
 - i All Peaches died
 - i Most Apricots died
 - i Heavy die-off & damage in Plums
 - Moderate damage in Tart Cherries (no deaths)
- Pears—Relatively unscathed
- Apples—Light-moderate damage w/ some die-offs

Small Fruits—Damage Assessment

- Grape vines—most died-back (Frontenac vines lived)
- Raspberry canes—most died-back
 - Floricane fruiting:
 - Boyne, Royalty many lived
 - u Prelude, Nova a few lived
 - Primocane fruiting raspberries-no data (canes pruned in winter as standard cultural practice)
- Black Raspberries—most died-back (Minnesota wild-collected had some canes survive)
- Blackberries—all died back (usual)
- Strawberries (Monterey)—all survived

Small Fruits—Damage Assessment

- Blueberries—significant damage & die-offs
- Currant & Gooseberry no to minimal damage
- Serviceberry—no damage
- Seaberry—minimal damage
- Elderberry—minimal damage
- Bush cherry—no damage
- Haskap—no damage
- Northern hybrid Hazelnuts no damage
- Oregon Hazels—Doris died, Halles Giant lived

Protection

Plants in High Tunnels suffered minimal damage

- Peaches: no damage, but some slow to leaf
- Apricots: no damage
- Sweet Cherries: no damage
- Brambles: some cane damage (normal)
- Apple: no damage

Peaches in High Tunnel 2015

BEST YEAR YET FOR PEACHES IN HIGH TUNNEL...

MOST TREES HAVE FRUIT! SOME SLOW TO LEAF-OUT

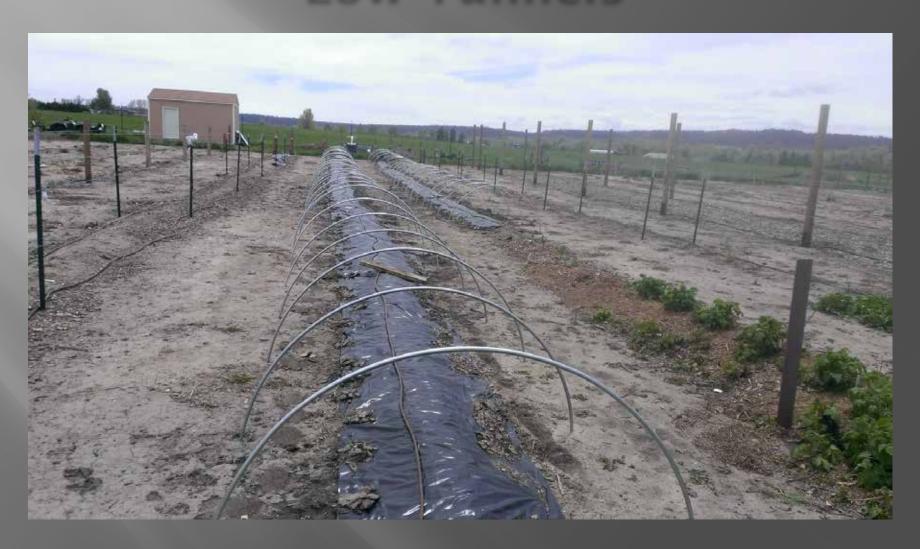


Peaches in High Tunnel May 14, 2015



Low Cost Protection Options

Protected Growing Low Tunnels



Protected Growing Raised Beds



Protected Growing Raised Beds



Protected Growing

- May Cover with:
 - i Agribon non-woven fabric
 - i Plastic
 - Shade cloth
 - Hail cloth
 - | Bird netting
 - i Insect screening
 - Hardware cloth/chicken wire
- Supplemental heat possible
- Misting possible

Notable Initial Performance Douglas County Research Orchards

Good	Poor
Apple	Pawpaw
Raspberry	Groundcover raspberry
Strawberry	Medlar
Primocane fruiting	Shipova
Blackberry	Hardy Kiwi
Bush Cherry	Cranberry
Tart Cherry	Lingonberry
Seaberry	Mulberry
Currant	Quince
Gooseberry	Persimmon

English Walnut

Almond

Aronia

Haskap

Grapes

- Can work on Front Range
- Select Varieties:
 - | Cold hardy
 - | Early to mid-season ripening
 - Later bloom is best
- Table Grapes
- Wine/Juice Grapes

Seedless Table Grapes

HIMROD

RELIANCE





Have harvested up to 15 lbs./vine Reliance in past years

Other Suitable Grapes

TABLE

- Canadice (seedless)
- Swenson red
- Swenson white
- Experimenting with
 - | Vanessa (seedless)
 - i Trollhaugen
 - Glenora Black
 - Somerset

NATIVES

- Concord
- Niagara

Wine Grapes

MARECHAL FOCH

FRONTENAC





Harvested 3-4 lbs./vine 2012 Partially shaded edible landscap



Very Hardy Wine Grape Varieties for Front Range

LATE BUD BREAK E-M HARVEST

- Brianna (w)
- LaCrosse (w)
- Vignoles (w)
- Frontenac (r)
- Frontenac Gris (w)
- Prairie Star (w)
- Espirit (w)

EARLY BUD BREAK E-M HARVEST

- LaCrescent (w)
- Edelweiss (w)
- Marquette (r)

From: Colorado Front Range Grape-growing Parameters CSU publication

Hardy Wine Grape Varieties for Front Range

LATE BUD BREAK E-M HARVEST

- Seyval (w)
- Traminette (w)
- Vidal blanc(w)
- Cayuga white (w)
- Leon Millot (r)
- St Croix (r)
- Corot noir (r)
- Chancellor (r)

EARLY BUD BREAK E-M HARVEST

- Marechal Foch (r)
- GR7 (r)
- DeChaunac (r)

From: Colorado Front Range Grape-growing Parameters CSU publication

Hardy Wine Grape Varieties for Front Range

LATE BUD BREAK M-L HARVEST

- Chambourcin (r)
- Noiret (r)
- Norton/Cynthiana (r)

Vinifera grapes not recommended for Front Range

From: Colorado Front Range Grape-growing Parameters CSU publication

Raspberry & Blackberry















High Tunnel Bramble Production

- Maine study –
 Primocane raspberry
 yield:
 - 5000 lbs/ac outside
 - 14,000 lbs/ac high tunnels
 - due mainly to season extension
- Cornell University
 Greenhouse Raspberry
 Production Guide



Cornell University Photo

Hidden Mesa High Tunnel

- Brambles
 Earlier Floricane harvest possible
- Primocane varieties most applicable
- Produced well into October
 - Quality diminished after hard frosts
 - Floating row cover would mitigate frost the tunnel protects fruit and foliage on colder nights.



Figure 38. Light weight floating row cover used inside

Cornell University



'Caroline' raspberry late January



Black Raspberry in High Tunnel

Outdoor vs. High Tunnel Frost Mitigation

OCT. 3 – OUTDOOR

NOV. 4 – HIGH TUNNEL

Jan. 22 – High Tunnel







- Outdoor Blackberry fruit ruined by frost by early October 2013
- HT Blackberries still green and flowering in November
 - HT October light frost damage could be mitigated by row covers or heater
- Some leaves & canes green mid-winter after -20° F lows (esp. low or protected by leaves)

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Brambles Outside

- Black Raspberries
- Summer Bearing Rasp.
- Fall Bearing Rasp.
- Blackberries





Black Raspberries

MOST OVERWINTERED WELL 2012-2013 AND 2013-2014





Black Raspberries Surviving Cultivars

Surviving Cultivars

- Wild Minnesota
- Jewel
- Bristol
- Mac Black
- Pequot
- Logan
- Munger

Non-Surviving Cultivars

- Huron
- Black Hawk
- Allen (never got established)
- Niwot (re-planting)



Black Raspberries 2013

2014 Black Raspberry Trial Results

Variety	Yield per Plant (lbs.)	Berry Size	Sweetness (1 = high 5 = low)	Flavor Robustnes s (1-5)	Peak Season	Ease of Picking (1-3)
Minnesota Wild Collected	1.3	S	3-4	2	July 14- 29	3
Cumberlan d	0.8	S-M	2	2	July 14- 29	3
Bristol	2.6	M-L	1	2	July 14- Aug 11	1-2
Munger	1.3	M-L	1	2	July 14- 29	1-2
Logan	0.8	S-M	2	1	July 21- 29	3
Pequot	0.2	M-L	4	4	July 21- 29	2
Jewel	0.9	XL	2-3	3	July 29- Aug 5	1
Mac Black	0.1	M-L	3	2-3	July 29- Aug 18	2

Black Raspberry Trial Highlights

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2014 Black Raspberry Comparison



First Primocane Black Raspberries





- Niwot plants too young to ripen fruit in 2013
- Niwot developed by Pete Tallman, Longmont, CO
- Ohio Treasure also available

Blackberries

Primocane

- Prime Ark 45
- Prime Jim
- Prime Jan
- Prime Ark Freedom



Primocane fruiting blackberries 2013

Floricane

- Triple Crown
- Loch Ness
- Tayberry
- Illini Hardy
- Black Hull
- Chester
- Metolious (did not survive)

Primocane Bramble Management

- Usually managed for single fall crop in CO
- Bear on top 1/3 of 1st year canes in late Aug., Sept.+
- Mow canes off winter or spring



Mowing last season's BB primocanes during winter

Primocane Blackberries

- All primocane BBs rushed by fall frosts
- Prime Jan earliest
- Prime Jim middle
- Prime Ark 45 latest (very few berries ripened in 2013 or 14)
- Prime Ark Freedom-Thornlessseason unknown



Primocane Blackberries

- All primocane BBs large & flavorful Canes have never
- Canes have never survived winter in Franktown or Castle Rock
- Row covers might keep alive over winter



Triple Crown & Loch Ness

- Trailing
- Floricane Fruiting
- Large fruit
- Loch Ness tart & insipid
- Triple Crown sweet & delicious
- Triple Crown thornless



Triple Crown berries 2014

Triple Crown & Loch Ness

- Canes survive in high tunnel
 Could Protect
 Canes outside with by:
 - laying canes down & mulching
 - i row covers



Triple Crown in High Tunnel

Primocane Raspberries

All mature primocane varieties grow and fruit at Franktown & Castle Rock



Primocane Raspberry Characteristics

- Fall Gold: More flavorful & firmer than Anne, light yields
- Anne: Yellow, soft, light yields
- Jacklyn: Excellent flavor, fruit sticks to torus, slightly frost tender, moderate yields
- Himbo Top: Sunscald problems
- Caroline*: Exc. Flavor, highest vitamin C, high yield
- Polana*: A little more tart, 20% higher yield in Boulder**
 - *Best all around choices for Front Range Growing, based on current experience.

 **Joel Reich, personal communication

Primocane Raspberry Characteristics

- Autumn Britten*: Exc. Flavor, high yields
- Autumn Bliss*: Exc. Flavor, 50% of harvest in 1st couple weeks, minimizes loss to early frost, high yields
- Prelude (No data yet)
- Joan J (No data yet)
- Heritage: Good berry but 2-3 weeks later than others, risking frost, high yields, somewhat soft
- Plainsman: From Cheyenne Research Station (no data yet)

^{*}Best all around choices for Front Range Growing, based on current experience.

SWD found in 2013

- Spotted Wing Drosophilla
- Affects berries & soft fruits on the plant
- Compromises fruit quality
- Don't appear until midsummer
 - July 21st first signs
 - Aug. 5th heavy activity
- Found orchard hygiene reduced incidence drastically
 - Pick early & often
 - Collect & remove bad fruit





Floricane Rasperries

- Red Mammoth
- Boyne**
- Latham
- Nova*
- Octavia
- Chilicotin
- K816
- Lauren
- Royalty (purple)**
- Taylor
- Prelude*
- Encore
- Killarney

- Temperature hit 0°F mid-April 2013
- Temperature dropped 50-70°F after Indian summer 2014
- Very few canes survived to fruit in 2013 & 2015

- **Many canes of this variety survived winter of 2014-15 (perhaps 30-50%)
- * A few canes of this variety survived winter of 2014-15

Fruits of Our Labor



Day Neutral Strawberries with Commercial Potential

Varieties:

- Monterey
- Mara Des Bois
- Evie 2
- Albion
- Seascape
- Portola
- San Andreas



Strawberries grown at Hidden Mesa

Monterey & San Andreas

Monterey:

- i Vigorous
- i High yielding
- | Very Large berries
- Firm
- Sweetness developed at end of ripening cycle
- Berries can develop woodycore after hard frosts
- San Andreas similar to Monterey



Monterey & other varieties grown in high tunnel at Hidden Mesa Orchard

Monterey Strawberries Spring 2015



Spread from only a few plants. Overwintered beautifully with no protection.

Mara Des Bois

Mara Des Bois (DN)

- Extremely sweet & aromatic
- Unique flavor
- Medium Small berries
- Softer than Monterey melts in mouth
- Consistent producer



Mara Des Bois at Hidden Mesa

Other Day Neutral Strawberries

These DN Varieties are all large and somewhat similar:

- Evie 2
- Albion
- Seascape
- Portola



Strawberries grown at Hidden Mesa

Favorite June-Bearing Strawberry

Cavendish (June Bearing)

- Very sweet
- Unique flavor
- Very vigorous vegetative growth

Seaberry

- \$330M industry in Europe & Scandinavia
- Food/drink
- Nutraceuticals
- Cosmetics
- Nitrogen fixing
 - Hardy to -40°F
- Super-fruit
 - Vitamins A, C, & E
 - Beneficial oils
 - Minerals



Seaberry

- Aka Sea Buckthorn
 Thorny
 - Many Commercial Varieties
- Mechanical harvest methods being developed
- Easy to establish
- Very fast growing



Haskap (Edible Blue Honeysuckle)

Hardy to -40°F

Blossoms hardy to 15-17°F (tolerates spring frost)

Native from N. Japan to Siberia +

Canada



Haskap

- Very early blooming
 - Russian earlier than Japanese
 - Bear earlier than Strawberries
- Honeysuckle family—beautiful in the landscape
- Japanese delicacy—
 potential export market
- Protect from bird predation



Haskap

- Improved Commercial varieties from Univ. of Saskatchewan
 - Russian origin
 - **i** Blooms earlier
 - 2 available in USA



- Improved varieties from Oregon State Univ.
 - i Japanese origin
 - **ú** Blooms slightly later
 - Not yet released
- Honeyberry: selected wild blue honeysuckle
 - i Generally
 - í Lower yield
 - **É** Smaller fruit
 - **Ú** Not as flavorful

Hardy Bush Cherry

- Univ. of Saskatchewan
- 34 pie & 14 Mongolian bush cherry
- Hardy to -50°F
- 4-7' bush
- Complex tart flavor
- Deep red fruit & juice
- 18-22 brix
- 5 years to mature
- Lit. says yield up to 25lbs/bush
- 3 released in USA

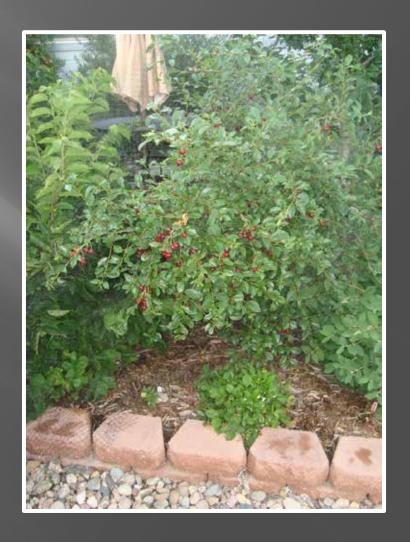


Carmine
Jewell
Cherries from
Edible
Landscape



Hardy Bush Cherry

Carmine Jewel in edible landscape
Yielded about 5
lbs./bush in 4th year
w/ ½ day sun &
landscape competition
Black aphids—not
problematic



Carmine Jewel in Bloom



Hardy Bush Cherries Mechanically Harvestable









Tree-Type Tart (Pie) Cherries

- Normally very reliable in Front Range Climate (not in 2014-15 winter)
- Susceptible to bird damage
- High yield potential



Evans Bali tart cherry tree in edible landscape in Castle Rock

Saskatoon (aka Serviceberry, Juneberry)

- Colorado Native
- Selected & Improved varieties
- 6-12' bush or tree
- Mechanically harvestable
- Highly nutritious
- Many products & uses
- Viable industry in Canada
- Similar in appearance to blueberry



Saskatoon/Serviceberry



Gooseberry & Currant

- Very cold tolerant
- Shade tolerant
- Espalier options
- Row crop culture
- Mechanically harvestable
- High nutrition
- Various colors & flavors
- Some fresh & many process market uses



Various colored gooseberries & hybrids from Hidden Mesa

Gooseberry



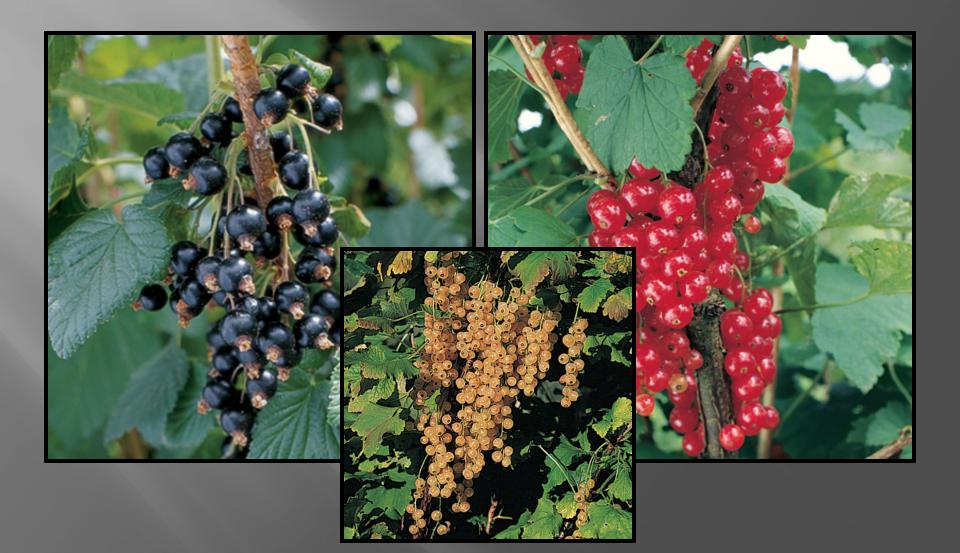
Left: Fruiting Gooseberry at Lowell Ranch

Picked 7 lbs. off 3 bushes in shaded edible landscape 2012

Various Red Gooseberries from Hidden Mesa



Currant



Elderberry

- European (Sambucus nigra)
- American (Sambucus canadensis)
- Highly nutritious
- Process market
- Yields:
 - i 12-15 lbs/plant
 - 4-12 tons/ac in New York (more w/ S. nigra)
 - Mechanical harvest potential
- Ornamental quality





Aronia

- Aka: black chokeberry
- Well adapted to CO
- Very nutritious
- 2-4 tons/ac @ maturity
- Row culture
- Mechanically harvestable
- Process market
- Ornamental quality





Hazelnut/Filbert

- Cold hardy varieties probably suitable
- Oregon tree hazels may be too tender
- Eastern Filbert Blight potential
 - Select resistant varieties
- Potential winter-kill of catkins (pollen cones)
- Bush varieties offer new cultural options
- Mechanical harvest possible
- Co-cropping potential



Hazelnut/Filbert Products

- In-shell nuts
- Hazelnut oil
 - 60%+ oil content
 - Very similar to olive oil
 - By-product meal
 - Very high in protein
 - Health food products
 - **ú** Animal feed
 - Processed nuts
 - Including ancillary uses (confections, flavoring, etc.)
- Branches from coppicing
 - Furniture industry (wicker-style weaving)
 - Woody biomass



Hazelnut











Local Results



Young Hazel at Hidden Mesa

- Northern Hardy
 Hybrids surviving at
 Franktown without
 protection
- Oregon Varieties
 - Doris died
 - i Halles Giant survived
- Native varieties found in the area

Highbush Cranberry



- Viburnum not
 Vaccinium
- Beautiful in landscapes
- Cranberry flavor



Goji/Wolfberry



- Zone 5-6
- Prefers alkaline to neutral soil
- Very nutrient dense

Maypop Passionfruit







- Gorgeous in landscape
- Does not often ripen fruit
- Blooms daily

Other Unique Edibles



Rhubarb





Princepia



Autumn Olive



Goumi



Hops

Peaches

- Early Bloom (losses ave. 2/3 years)
- Use late/hardy bloom varieties
- **Protection Potential**
 - High Tunnels (suitability undetermined)
 - Row Covers
 - Surround treatment (white coat-reduces warming)
 - Sodium Alginate treatment (delays bud break)
- Lost all peaches outside over last two winters
 - 2013-14 & 2014-15)
- Peaches in high tunnels thriving

Frost Resistant Varieties Worth Trying

- Flamin' Fury PF 24C*
- Contender*
- Intrepid*
- Carolina Gold*
- China Pearl*
- Reliance*
- Madison
- Poly
- Redhaven

- Veteran*
- Raritan Rose
- Harrow Diamond*
- Glohaven*
- Challenger*
- Nectar*

* Currently in Research Orchard

Apricots

- Early Bloom (losses ave. 6/7 years)
- Use late blooming/hardy bloom/long bloom varieties
- Protection Potential
 - i High Tunnels (suitability undetermined
 - ú Vertical V
 - ú Espalier/fan on dwarf RS
 - Row Covers
 - | Surround treatment (white coat-reduces warming)
 - | Sodium Alginate treatment (delays bud break)



Latest Blooming Varieties for West

Ranked from Full-Bloom (latest to earliest)

- Westley (died)**
- Zard
- Afghanistan
- Suphany
- Nicole
- Goldensweet
- Sugar Pearls (died)**
- Henderson
- Tomcot (died)
- Jerseycot* (died back severely)**
- Florilege
- Harglow* (died)**
- Harcot
- Helena
- Hargrand* (died)**

- Golden Giant
- Precious
- Harlayne* (died)**
- Goldbar
- Harval
- Lorna
- Hoyt Montrose
- Robada
- Castlebrite
- Apache
- Harogem* (died)**
- Westcot* (survived 2014)
- Debbie's Gold* (survived 2014)
- Morden 604
- Brookcot

Source: Bob Purvis Idaho Study 2012

* Currently in Research Orchard **Died/damaged over last 2

winters

Other Apricot Varieties Believed to have frost tolerance, late bloom, or long bloom duration

- Tlor Tsiran (apricot/myloban plum hybrid) (died)
- Adirondack Gold
 - one of few to survive 2014-15 winter
 - Is thriving
- Puget Gold (died)
- Hunza (died)
- Montrose (died)

Edible Landscaping

LANDSCAPE CONTAINS:

PIE CHERRY TREE
ITALIAN PLUM TREE
4 SASKATOON
BUSHES

2 BUSH CHERRIES

2 HONEYBERRY (HASKAP)

3 SEABERRY

2 HAZELNUT

1 RED CURRANT

2 GRAPE VINES

TRADITIONAL &
ALPINE STRAWBERRY
EDGING



1 year after planting

6 years after planting

Community Orchards Recreation ground Community orchard

Small Plot Intensive Culture

Fruit with Micro-farming potential



Questions??



SMALL FRUIT PRODUCTION IN COLORADO Options for the Front Range

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Extra Information

Apple Varieties

Selected for:

- i Hardy to zone 5A minimum
- i Fireblight Resistance
- Early to Mid-Season Ripening
- Quality Fruit

Other Considerations:

- Bloom Time
- i Yield
- i Annual Bearing
- Resistance to other disease/Insects



Apple Varieties at Hidden Mesa 2014-15 Injury

- Williams Pride
- Redfree (died)
- Pristine (damage)
- Akane
- Zestar!
- Priscilla (damage)
- Freedom (severe damage)
- Jonafree
- Snowsweet
- Enterprise (died)

Apple Varieties at Hidden Mesa 2014-15 Injury

- Sweet 16 (2 died/2 lived)
- Honeycrisp
- Liberty
- Pixie Crunch (died previously)
- Redstone Canyon Gold (died previously)
- Red Barron
- Cortland
- Haas

Apple Varieties at Hidden Mesa 2014-15 Injury

These trees were planted spring 2014 and were younger going into freeze

- Macfree (died)
- Sansa
- Grimes Golden (died)
- Galarina (died)
- Frostbite
- Winecrisp (died)

Adaptable to Intensive Culture

- Tall Spindle
- Dr. Terence Ronbinson (Cornell University)
 - Fruit in 2nd Leaf
 - Up to 1300 trees/ac
 - Up to 40,000 lbs. yield/ac (New York)
 - \$15-20K/ac installation costs



Photo: Ron Perry, MSU,

<u>http://extension.umass.edu/fruitadvisor/sites</u> -fruitadvisor/files/pdf-doc

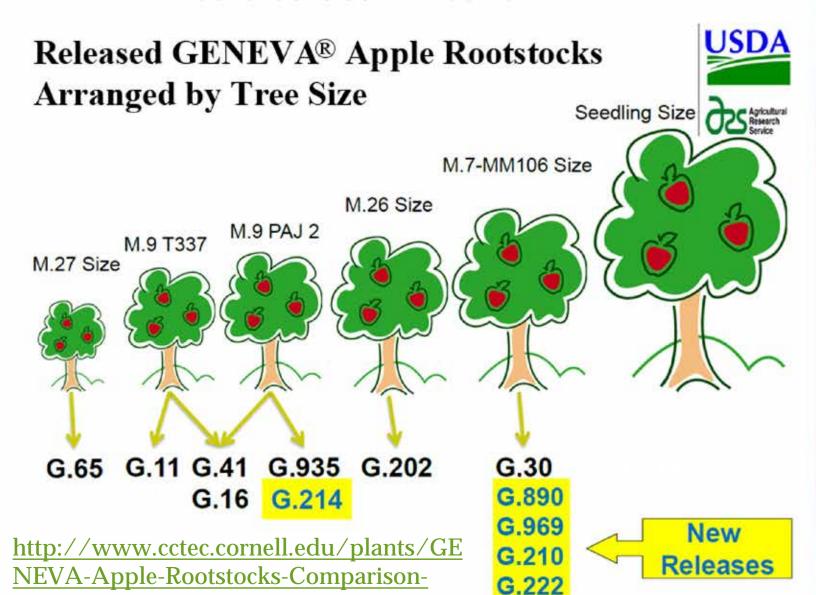
Apple Rootstocks

- Fireblight Resistance
 - Budagovsky series (B9, B118)
 - Geneva Series (G11, G16, etc.)
 - i M7
- Climatic Adaptability
- Pest/Disease Resistance
- Dwarfing Characteristics
- Anchoring Characteristics
- Soil Tolerance

CCTEC CORNELL CENTER FOR TECHNOLOGY ENTERPRISE AND COMMERCIALIZATION

Chart-120911.pdf

GENEVA® APPLE ROOTSTOCKS COMPARISON CHART





Contact: Jessica Lyga, Plant Varieties & Germplasm Licensing Associa

Office: 607-255-02

E-mail: jml73@comell.ed:

where INNOVATION: mean BUSIN

Pears

Early Bloom may be problematic

Select Varieties that are:

- Hardy to Zone 5A minimum
- Fireblight (FB) Resistant
- Early to Midseason Ripening
- Good Fruit Quality
- Rootstock
 - i OHxF best
 - Quince may be problematic (FB, cold hardiness problems)



Honeysweet Pears grown in Castle Rock

Hidden Mesa Pear Varieties

- Luscious*
- Hudar
- Honey Sweet*
- Ayers*
- Ure*
- Waterville
- Beierschmidt*
- Nova
- Southworth*
- O'Berg
- Barnet-Perry

- Ubileen
- Hendre Huffcap—Perry
- Barland—Perry
- Magness*
- Harrow Delight*
- Maxine*
- Blake's Pride*
- Harrow Sweet*
- Harrow Crisp*
- Moonglow*

Hidden Mesa Pear Varieties

- Harvest Queen*
- Ewart (died)*
- Aurora
- White Doyenne
- Gem*
- Shenandoah*
- Collette
- Flemish Beauty

- Seckel*
- Romainian
- Potomac*
- Savignac

Plums

- Option on Front Range
 - Select:
 - Cold hardy
 - Later blooming cultivars



Part of Mount Royal harvest 2012



Mount Royal plum in edible landscape 2012