

## Conference

Dessert pear. Raised by Rivers' Nursery of Sawbridgeworth in 1885. One parent is the variety Leon leClerc de Laval. Introduced in 1885 and named after the Apple and Pear Conference held that year in London. Medium to large in size. Yellowish green in colour with varying amounts of patchy golden russet. A good pear to store. Pale yellow sweet flesh. It is self-fertile so will set fruit without the need of another pear tree to pollinate it.

Flowering period C

Pick late Sept and use in Oct and Nov

## Swan's Egg Pear

Dessert pear. Our Swan's Egg pear derives from trees growing in a commercial orchard in Somersham which were planted in the 1890s. We believe these to be examples of the 'lost' variety 'Stilton's Swan's Egg pear', which was recorded as being grown in Somersham orchards in 1933. DNA analysis has also shown that this pear does not match any pear variety on the UK's DNA fruit database. Medium sized with greenish yellow skin, flushed orange with some russet. Firm, sweet flesh.

Flowering period C.

Pick mid/late Oct and use Oct to Nov.

## Hacon's Incomparable

Dessert pear. Origin confused. Arose as either a chance seedling found growing in a baker's yard in 1792 by Mrs. Rayner, or it was propagated from 'Rayner's Norfolk Seedling' by Mr. J. Hacon, around 1814. A handsome mid-green coloured medium-sized pear. Sweet flavoured.

Flowering period D

Pick early Oct and use from Oct to Nov/Dec

## Robin

Dessert pear. May be the old 'lost' pear variety London Sugar, as listed in the catalogue of nurseryman George Lindley, of Catton, Norwich, in 1796, but known before 1900. Can occasionally be seen on sale on Norwich market and elsewhere. A small red-flushed dessert pear best eaten very soon after picking.

Flowering period C

Pick late Aug and use Aug and Sept

### Laxton's Superb

A dual-purpose plum. Raised by Laxton Bros. of Bedford in 1904 and introduced in 1913. A Denniston's Superb (probably Imperial Gage) x Victoria cross. A large yellow skinned oblong-oval plum. Often has a pink flush. Flesh is soft and sweet. It is self-fertile so will set fruit without the need of another plum tree to pollinate it.

Flowering period B

Pick and use mid to late Aug

### Princess

Dessert pear. Raised by Rivers' Nursery of Sawbridgeworth in 1875. One parent is the variety Louise Bonne de Jersey. A large, conical, yellow dessert pear covered with brown russet dots and some patchy russet. Sometimes has an orange flush to skin. Flesh is buttery and sweet.

Flowering period B

Pick late Oct and use in Nov and Dec

### Cambridge Gage

Dessert gage. A greenish yellow skinned gage that is probably a seedling of the Green Gage. Larger in size and better cropping than Green Gage. First recorded as growing at Histon in 1927. Soft and juicy flesh. Extremely sweet to taste. It is partially self-fertile so will set some fruit by itself. Having another same or different plum variety with the same or adjacent pollination group nearby will help cropping (but not Green Gage or any of its seedling offspring).

Flowering period C

Pick and use in mid/late Aug

### Willingham Gage

Dessert gage. Arose at Willingham, probably as a seedling of a Green Gage and dates to the 1800s. Selected by the RHS in the late 1900s for its good cropping and excellent fruit quality. Similar in appearance but larger than Green Gage. Sweet and juicy to taste.

Flowering period C

Pick and use in mid/late Aug to Sept

## Green Gage

Dessert gage. In the eighteenth-century Thomas Gage of Hengrave Hall, near Bury St. Edmunds, received a shipment of fruit from France that included the gage 'Reine-Claude'. His gardener forgot its proper name so renamed it 'Green Gage' after Thomas. Fruits can be large but not usually heavy cropping. Soft fleshed and juicy. Is incompatible with seedling varieties of gages derived from Green Gage.

Flowering period C.

Pick and use mid to late Aug.

## Wallis's Wonder

Dessert plum. Raised by Simpsons' Nursery, Fordham, in around 1960 for Eric Wallis of Bluntisham, by crossing the varieties Victoria and Severn Cross. Has only ever been grown commercially at Mr. Wallis's orchard. A medium to large reddish-purple flushed plum with sweet, soft, juicy flesh.

Flowering period B

Pick and use mid/late Sept to Oct

## Merchant

Dessert cherry. A large black skinned variety with dark red flesh, raised by the John Innes Institute in Norwich in 1970. Heavy cropping. One of its parents is Merton Glory, also raised by the John Innes Institute, when based in London.

Flowering period C

Pick and use June-July

## Summer Sun

Dessert cherry. A medium sized dark red coloured variety with good late frost tolerance and suitable for planting in exposed areas. It is partially self-fertile so will set some fruit by itself. A useful pollinator for self sterile cherry varieties.

Pollination group C

Pick and use mid/late July