

# List of varieties recommended for organic table cherry production

## Problem

In addition to a high yield and good fruit quality, high disease tolerance is an important criterion for choosing appropriate cherry varieties. In cherry production, blossom blight and brown rot (*Monilia*) are the most important diseases to cause fruit losses.

## Solution

Besides covering the cherry trees to prevent infections, less susceptible cultivars can be planted.

## Benefits

Minimisation of fruit losses in the field and post-harvest and less fruit sorting workload without using plant protection products.

## Applicability box

### Theme

Crop production, Horticulture, Temperate fruits

### Keywords

Temperate fruits, cherry, varieties, cultivars

### Context

Table cherry production

### Application time

When planting a new orchard

## Practical recommendation

### Characteristics of varieties recommended for organic table cherry fruit production:

Rating • very low/small; •• low/small; ••• medium; •••• high/big; ••••• very high/big; (S) variety protection (status 03.08.2022)

Blooming time **VE** very early, **E** early, **ME** medium early, **M** medium, **ML** medium late, **L** late;

<sup>1</sup> Varieties with different S-alleles are completely compatible (up to 100 % pollination), varieties with one different S-allele are semi-compatible (up to 50 % pollination). In addition, for good pollination, the blooming period needs to match and the pollination must be guaranteed.

<sup>2</sup> Self-fertile

Variety ( <b>bold</b> = main variety, <i>italic</i> = little experience in organic)	Cultivation characteristics					Fruit characteristics			Recommended rootstock vigour	Comments (SS/LS = short/long stalks)	
	Monilia risk		yield	vigour	bloom- ing time	S- allele <sup>1</sup>	size	aroma			firm- ness
flowers	fruits										
<b>Early</b>											
<b>Burlat</b>	••	••	•••	•••••	E	3, 9	•••	•••	••	-	Medium pickability (SS), → choose rootstock with low vigour and prune intensively (restrained pruning on vigorous rootstocks)
<i>Narana</i>	••	••	••••	••••	VE	2, 9	•••	••••	•••	-	Good pickability, good ramification, very early bloom → choose a suited pollinator variety
<b>Merchant</b>	••	••	••••	••••	ME	4, 9	•••	••••	•••	-	Good ramification, medium pickability (SS), risk of overbearing on low-vigour rootstocks, softer fruits when overbearing
Giorgia	••	•	•••••	••	M	1, 13	••••	••••	••••	+	Small fruit stone, tendency for balding, weeping branches → intensive fruiting wood pruning
<b>Medium</b>											
<b>Grace Star</b>	•	•••	••••	••••	M	4, 9 <sup>2</sup>	•••••	•••	•••	-	Low ramification, susceptible to <i>Pseudomonas</i> , good pickability (LS), risk of overbearing on low-vigour rootstocks → promote flat branch exit angles
<b>Vanda (S)</b>	•••	••	•••••	••••	ME	1, 6	••••	••••	•••	-	Good ramification, good pickability (LS), robust, low fruit drop
Christiana (S)	•••	••	•••••	•••	ME	3, 6	••••	•••	••••	+	Robust, good ramification, very good pickability (LS), risk of overbearing on low-vigour rootstocks → intensive fruiting wood pruning



Variety (bold = main variety, <i>italic</i> = little experience in organic)	Cultivation characteristics						Fruit characteristics			Recommended rootstock vigour	Comments (SS/LS = short/long stalks)
	Monilia risk		yield	vigour	bloom- ing time	S- allele <sup>1</sup>	size	aroma	firm- ness		
	flowers	fruits									
<b>Late</b>											
Oktavia	•	•	••••	••	L	1, 3	•••	•••	•••	+	Recommended as pollinator, medium risk of fruit dropping, good pickability (LS)
<b>Kordia</b>	••••	•	••••	•••	ML	3, 6	••••	••••	•••••	+	Robust, low fruit drop susceptibility, frost susceptible, tendency for balding, good pickability (LS) → strong pruning needed
<i>Satin</i> <sup>®</sup> <i>Sumele</i>	No info available		••••	•••	ME	1, 3	••••	••••	•••••	+/-	susceptible to Pseudomonas, low ramification, slightly squarrose branched → stronger pruning of drooping fruiting wood in high-yield years
<b>Irena</b>	••	•	••••	••••	L	4, 6	••••	•••••	••••	-	LS, best pollinator for or replacement of Regina, good ramification → pruning to promote fruiting wood, more regular bearing than Regina and slightly lower vigour than Regina
<b>Regina</b>	••	•	••••	••••	L	1, 3	••••	••••	•••••	-	susceptible to fruit dropping, good pickability, good ramification, → fruiting wood pruning when overbearing

**Possible supplementary varieties:** Masdel (+fruit quality, +fruit size, -yield); Lapins (+self-fertile, +aroma, +yield); Tamara (S) (+Yield, +fruit quality), Bellise (S) (+Yield, -Aroma, -Pseudomonas)

**Varieties with little experience in organic production:** Canada Giant (+yield, +firmness, -aroma, overbearing); Penny (+yield, +fruit quality, -vigour, tendency for balding, short stalks); Folfer (S) (+fruit quality, short stalks, stamp spot cracks); Benton (+fruit quality, only on low-vigour rootstocks); Justyna (+yield, sometimes overbearing, -fruit quality); Summer Sun (+yield, +fruit quality, robust, sweet, alternative to Kordia late frost-prone regions); Sweet Lorenz (early variety, +fruit quality, risk of fruit cracking)

**Varieties that are NOT recommended for organic production:** Earlise; Coralise; Samba; Hudson; Somerset; Summit; Sweetheart<sup>®</sup>; Techlovan<sup>®</sup> (S); Carmen (S) (highly susceptible to fruit cracking).

## Further information

### Further reading

- Häseli, A., Friedli, M., Stefani, P. 2021. [List of cherry cultivars for organic cherry production](#) (DE, FR)
- Suran, P. et al., 2019. [Cherry varieties bred in VSUO Holovousy.](#)

### Weblinks

- Check the [Organic Farm Knowledge platform](#) for more practical recommendations.

## About this practice abstract

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