



Fruit and Nut Trees on Virginia Tech's Campus

Considerations when Gathering Urban Fruit

- Carefully identify the plant before you eat or collect the fruit.
- If you wish to harvest from a fruit tree located on private property, be sure to ask permission from the owner before gathering.
- Use appropriate picking tools to harvest so as not to damage the tree.
- Avoid gathering next to major roadways as there is much higher potential for the fruit to be contaminated with pollution.
- Remember that the flavor of fruit will vary between trees of the same species so taste before you collect a basketful.

Urban gleaning groups

In recent years, urban fruit gathering groups have sprung up across the country to harvest both public and private trees. The fruits and nuts that are gathered are often distributed among volunteers and homeowners and donated to local food banks.

Why Harvest Urban Fruit?

- Gathering from our urban forest **reduces waste** and messy fruit drop.
- Urban fruit provides **fresh, local and nutritious food** to our community.
- Fruit gathering can be a socializing and **recreational outdoor activity**.
- Fruit found in the urban forest is often different from that in stores and can provide **culturally significant foods** to our diverse community.
- Fruit gathering is a fun **educational opportunity for connecting with nature** and our food.

Additional Resources

For more information including identification of edible species, and recipes, visit: <http://urbanforestry.frec.vt.edu/campusfruitmap/>

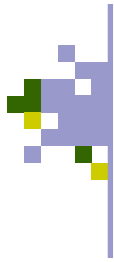
Email: vtuf@vt.edu

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The Dow Gardens Archive, Dow Gardens, Bugwood.org

A map of edible fruits and nuts on Virginia Tech's campus in Blacksburg, VA.



Trees we have on Virginia Tech's Campus

Sweet cherry (*Prunus avium*) ripens early to mid summer, **black cherry** (*Prunus serotina*) ripens late summer, and **purple leaf plum** (*Prunus cerasifera*) ripens mid to late summer. As with all true cherries, remember not to eat the pits as they can be toxic.

Cornelian cherry (*Cornus mas*), actually a type of dogwood, produces small red berries ripening in late summer.

Crabapple (*Malus spp.*) ripens late summer or fall depending on the variety. Only difference between a crabapple and an apple is the size of the fruit.

Hawthorn (*Crataegus spp.*) produces a small bright red fruit, similar to crabapple, that ripens in the fall. Seeds are poisonous.

Hackberry (*Celtis occidentalis*) berries ripen from orange-red to dark purple in the fall.

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier spp.*) fruit looks similar to a blueberry and ripens in June.

Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and **hickory** (*Carya spp.*) mature late summer to fall. Nuts can be collected off the ground or from the tree. Nuts must be husked and shelled before eating

Ginkgo (*Ginkgo biloba*) nuts mature in the fall and should be roasted or cooked before eating. The nut is surrounded by a pungent fruit-like exterior. Nuts should not be eaten in large quantities and some people can be allergic. Only female trees bear nuts.

Fruit and Nut Tree Map

