Novelty Fruits For Wisconsin

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Why Grow Fruit in the Home Garden?

- Some fruits not readily available fresh (much higher quality)
- Compliment to the landscape
- Health, Therapy
- Relaxing diversion
- Monetary (grocery bills)
- To ↓ C footprint; less transportation = less fuel
- Produce homegrown gifts- Fresh, jam, jelly, pies, sauce, juice, juice concentrate, dried fruit, frozen fruit, wine
- Control over culture
Determining Which Fruit Cultivar to Plant

- **Why was it introduced?** Flavor, disease resistance, ripening time, storage life, growth habit, appearance, ornamental qualities, winter hardiness, late bloom... Is that trait important to me?

- **Has it been tested thoroughly in my area?** Other growers/gardeners, university trials, “test winters”, nursery anecdotal evidence. Probably not “new” if high confidence level!

- **Do I have the time, money and room?** Trees are $25-$40 a piece; standard size trees take up 400-500 ft²
Appropriateness and Adaptation

Fewer assurances now more than ever...

• Novelty fruits generally not tested! However, Carandale Farm has conducted some tests: http://uncommonfruit.cias.wisc.edu/category/uncommon-fruit-2/page/2/

• Fruit cultivar introductions are on a global scale (everybody wants a piece of the patent pie)
Fruit plants classified according to degree of maintenance needed for fruit production.

- **Minimum maintenance** (simple pruning, usually not more than one pest control application, adaptation to most soil conditions, may need screening to protect from birds):
  - Aronia, Butternut, Buffaloberry, Chestnut (Chinese), Crabapple, Currant, Elderberry, Filbert, Gooseberry, Hickory, Honeyberry, Mulberry, Seaberry, Serviceberry, Strawberry, Walnut (Black)

- **Modest maintenance** (pruning, 1-5 pest control apps., protection against rabbits and/or mice):
  - Apricot, Blackberry, Cherry (all), Raspberry (all), Blueberry (specialized land preparation initially, frequent irrigation)

- **High maintenance** (> 5 pest control applications):
  - Apple, Grape, Peach, Pear, Plum (American), Plum hybrids, Plum (European)
Black chokeberry (Aronia melanocarpa)

- Size: 4-6’
- Fruit: Pome
  - Color: dark purple
  - Ripen: late August - early October
- Soil: grows well in alkaline
- Location: sun
- Landscape value - persistent fruit
  - ‘Autumn magic’, ‘Nero’, ‘Viking’
Aronia Cultivars Available in U.S.

- ‘Viking’: 3-8’ height, vigorous, widely available. Developed in Finland, 1980. **Number 1** cultivar in Midwest

- ‘Nero’: 3-4’ height. Developed in Poland. **Number 2** cultivar in Midwest

- Autumn Magic’: more compact than the species; brilliant red/purple fall color. Introduced by University of British Columbia, 1996.

- ‘McKenzie’: 6-12’ height. Collected in Former Soviet Union; introduced by NRCS Plant Materials Center, Bismarck ND, 2008.

- ‘Morton’ (Iroquois Beauty™): 2-3’ height. Introduced by the Chicagoland Grows® Program.
Buffalo Berry, Silver Buffalo Berry

• Native to Great Plains
• Rich in lycopene — an antioxidant that appears to lower the risk of certain types of cancers
• Sufficiently high sugar levels to taste good as a fresh or dried fruit (they have the consistency of a raisin when dried) and its acidity makes it desirable for wine makers.
• Crown Height - 6 to 14 feet. Crown Width - 8 to 14 feet. Drought-tolerant, thorny; fix N from atmosphere
• Flower Type - Dioecious. Flower Color - Yellowish.
• Fruit Color - Predominately red, however, some female plants can produce yellow fruits.
Buffaloberry - *Shepherdia argentea*
Cranberries- Gregelyski #1, Normon Lemunyon, Stevens, Pilgrim

- for every 5 square feet of bed, one should expect about a pound of cranberries, assuming the plants are healthy and at least 3 years old.
Clove Currant
Ribes odoratum - Ornamental Black “Clove” Currant

- “Crandall” — North Country's answer to Forsythia.”
- Crandall is a selection of ornamental black currant, an attractive, 4-foot bush that can produce an abundant crop of edible fruit in its second season.
- The berries are large and make a wonderful pie! Spicy-scented flowers bloom in early Spring, giving a burst of yellow to the landscape.
Elderberry

- Rich in phosphorus, potassium, and Vitamin C.
- Elderberry plants are generally free of pests, which makes them great for landscape plantings.
Elderberry

Adams, Johns, Nova, York (Home Fruit Cultivars for Northern Wisconsin – Brian R. Smith and Teryl R. Roper)

'Wyldewood' - a tall, vigorous elderberry plant that consistently produces heavy yields, is efficient to harvest, and produces fruit well-suited for processing. Outperformed the standard 'Adams II' elderberry in yield potential and berry size; 'Wyldewood' berry weights ranged from a low of 52 mg to a high of 111 mg. The harvest season for 'Wyldewood' is generally 14 to 26 days later than the standard 'Adams II', with harvest usually begin
• ‘Marge’ - Very high yielding plant, a cross of American and European species. Good mite and disease tolerance. European elderberry plants fruit on 2nd year branches and unlike American varieties they cannot be cut back to the ground each year. Never the less, it is a really good plant. Marge is one of the higher yielding varieties grown in the Midwest. Ripens in late July in Missouri.

• ‘Bob Gordon’ - Found near Osceola MO. in 1999, new cultivar. One of the highest yielding in MO test. Has large berry and inverts head for minimum bird damage when it starts to mature.

Botany Shop Garden Center
710 Minnesota Ave. Joplin, MO 64801
Elderberries

- ‘Black Lace’ (Eva) – thick, lacy purple-black foliage, massive pink flowers 6 – 8’
- ‘Black Beauty’ – nearly black-lacy foliage
- ‘Sutherland’ – 1st leaves – coppery red turning bright yellow for summer, lemon-scented pink flowers, June
Gooseberry
(Ribes hirtellum and R. uva-crispa)

- Size: 2-5’ high
- Pollination: self fertile
- Fruit: berry with hairs
  - Color: green to pink to red
  - Ripen: July-August
- Fruit on one-, two-, and three-year-old wood
- Pruning objective: improve circulation
- Soil: well-drained, pH of 5.5 to 7...but
- Location: full sun best...but
• Hinnonmaki Red Gooseberry

• A unique tart and sweet combination. Tart skin covers the sweet flesh of these tasty, ruby berries, so you can enjoy both flavors. Perfect for making pies and jams. Bushes are heavy producers, even when young. Mildew-resistant and cold-hardy. Ripens in July. Self-pollinating.
Haskaps (Honeyberry): a New Adapted Fruit

Honeyberry Plants
These members of the honeysuckle family produce clusters of unique, elongated berries with a high level of antioxidants and a sweet, blueberry-like flavor that is good for fresh eating or making preserves. Long-lasting plants — a life span of up to 50 years! These plants are cold hardy and ripen in early summer. For successful growing and fruit production plant two varieties, so they can pollinize one another. Also called Haskap Berries or Blue-berry Honeysuckle. New: ‘Indigo Gem’ and ‘Indigo Treat’
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variety</th>
<th>Berry Size</th>
<th>Shape</th>
<th>Flavour</th>
<th>Bush Size</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tundra</td>
<td>1.49 grams</td>
<td></td>
<td>sweet/tart</td>
<td>average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Borealis</td>
<td>1.62 grams</td>
<td></td>
<td>sweet/tangy</td>
<td>average</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigo Treat</td>
<td>1.41 grams</td>
<td></td>
<td>sweet</td>
<td>average</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indigo Gem</td>
<td>1.30 grams</td>
<td></td>
<td>sweet/tangy</td>
<td>average</td>
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<td>Indigo Yum</td>
<td>1.29 grams</td>
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<td>tangy/sweet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honeybee</td>
<td>1.9 grams</td>
<td></td>
<td>tart</td>
<td>large</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aurora</td>
<td>2.17 grams</td>
<td></td>
<td>sweet</td>
<td>large</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Haskaps

Tundra
Mature about 4-5 feet tall
Firmer skin than other varieties
Bleeds less from the scar
Average weight of 1.5gms

Borealis
Mature at about 4 feet tall
Sweeter and larger berry
Softer skin and bleeds slightly
• ‘Borealis’ Honeyberry

• Abundant harvests of large berries! Fragrant white flowers quickly give way to sweet and tart, plump berries with a taste similar to blueberries. Harvest as soon as early June — about two weeks before strawberries! Eat them fresh, freeze them, or make a batch of luxurious preserves or fruit liqueur. Plants are densely foliated and have a nice upright growth habit. Cold-hardy. Can take temperatures of up to -50°F and are a favorite in regions where the cold prohibits many fruiting plants. Early-bearing. Best pollinizers: Night Mist, Midnight Blue or Cinderella.
• ‘Blue Velvet’
  Honeyberry

• Large crops of tasty berries. This productive variety features grayish green, velvety foliage. Ripens in early summer. Cold-tolerant. Good for fresh eating or making preserves. Best pollinator: Blue Moon.
• ‘Blue Moon’ Honeyberry

• Very cold-tolerant — withstands temperatures as low as -40°F. This hardy variety features lovely dark green foliage. Good for fresh eating or making preserves. Best pollinator: Blue Velvet.
• **Blue Belle™** Honeyberry

• Early, blueberry-like fruit. In spring, small, white, slightly-fragrant flowers appear and give way to sweet and tasty fruit that ripens two weeks earlier than strawberries. Fruit is large and deep-blue in color, perfect for fresh-eating and making delicious jam. Flavor is comparable to sweet, wild blueberries with a tangy hint of currant. Plants are native to Siberia and can thrive in northern gardens where blueberries may have trouble. Cold-hardy. Best pollinator: Berry Blue.
• **Berry Blue™ Honeyberry**

• Sweet, tangy and unique! Native to parts of Siberia, these plants excel in northern gardens. Fruit flavor is comparable to wild blueberries with a hint of currant. Can be eaten fresh, but these berries truly shine when made into tasty jam. Plants have small, cream-colored flowers in spring and attractive flat-green leaves through summer. Berries ripen two weeks earlier than strawberries. Cold-hardy. Best pollinator: Blue Belle.
‘Cinderella’ Honeyberry

Compact grower! Plants have a rounded and upright growth habit, with clean, grass-green foliage and lovely white flowers in early spring. Ideal as a hedge or living fence, or as a novel addition to a small backyard orchard. Cold-hardy plants can take temperatures as low as -50°F. Not even a late, hard frost will kill your crop because the flowers are hardy to 7°F. Large, deep, bluish-purple fruits, which appear to be rectangular blueberries, come in the summer with a taste similar to a wild blueberry tinged with a little black currant. Spectacular when eaten fresh, but be sure to set aside some of your harvest for truly special jam or jelly. A note to home winemakers: honeyberries are valued for their currant undertones. Best pollinator: Borealis.

*Cinderella Best pollinator for all of the other three varieties.
Juneberries (Saskatoons)

- Regent, Smokey, Honeywood, Parkhill, Pembina, Success
  (Home Fruit Cultivars for Northern Wisconsin – Brian R. Smith and Teryl R. Roper)
• ‘Princess Diana’ - *Amelanchier canadensis*
• Can reach up to 20 feet tall. Delightful large purplish-red fruit is sweet and abundant. Large white blossoms and vibrant Fall color.

• ‘Prince William’ - *Amelanchier canadensis*
• Short in stature for *Amelanchier canadensis*, reaching only 10 feet at maturity. Blooms and fruits abundantly, producing...
• ‘Martin’ *Amelanchier alnifolia*

Largest fruit of any juneberry cultivar. Originated in Saskatchewan in 1990 as an improved selection of Theissen, with larger berries and more uniform ripening.

**Available:** Schlabach’s Nursery, St. Lawrence nursery

• ‘Lee #8’-

• *Amelanchier alnifolia*

A cross between Theissen and Northline, selected by L. Lee in Barrhead, Alberta. Lee #8 reaches a maximum of 6-7 ft. It is a compact bush that spreads slowly. High yield and consistent fruit quality. Lee #8 Amelanchier alnifolia A cross between Theissen and Northline, selected by L. Lee in Barrhead, Alberta. Lee #8 reaches a maximum of 6-7 ft. It is a compact bush that spreads slowly. High yield and consistent fruit quality.

St. Lawrence nursery
• **'Fergie'** *Amelanchier stolonifera*- Our smallest Amelanchier, reaching only 5 ft. Well-adapted to more acid eastern soils. Tasty fruit, bright fall color. Fergie is not a heavy producer of suckers. Flowers a bit later than other cultivars.

• **St. Lawrence Nursery**
Jostaberry

- Hybrid of black currant and gooseberry
- Poor performance!
Kiwi, *Actinidia arguta*

- vining 10-20’
- very sweet flavor, smaller than fuzzy kiwi
- zone 4
A. **arguta cultivars ‘119-40-B’** - A self-fertile selection from the Arnold Arboretum. Seemingly otherwise typical of the species and useful as a pollinator for other hardy kiwi clones.

B. **‘Geneva 2’** - Fruit matures in early fall (in Massachusetts). Selected by the Agricultural Experiment Station in Geneva, N.Y. Vigorous and reliable.

C. **‘Cornell’** - A male clone suitable for other hardy kiwi varieties.

D. **‘Ananasnaja’** - From Russia. Described as a reliable bearer of fairly large fruits (up to 1 inch by 1 1/2 inches). Fruits are less sweet, but the plants are less susceptible to late spring frosts.

E. **A. kolomikta cultivars: ‘Krupnopladnaya’** - From Russia; low to moderate vigor; sweet fruit; large leaves that are reportedly reddish in summer; purplish stems in winter. ‘fruit.

F. **‘Ken’s Red’** - (A. arguta var. purpurea) - Smooth, red skin and flesh; shade tolerant. Use a male hardy kiwi (A. arguta) as a pollinator.
New Hardy Kiwis

• **Anna**
  - Hardy Kiwi
  - Sweet and nutritious bite-sized fruit — high in vitamin C and potassium. Vine requires a sturdy structure such as a fence, pergola, or trellis for support. Delicate white blossoms bloom on lustrous green foliage in late May. Established vines are vigorous and hardy to -25°F. Pest- and disease-resistant. Heat-tolerant. Ripens in July through late September.
  - Best pollinator: Hardy Kiwi Pollinizer, required for proper fertility and fruit production.
  - Available: Starks
New Hardy Kiwis

- Ken’s Red-
  - Jung, Pense Nursery

- Michigan State-
  - Jung Nursery
Northrop Mulberry — Morus alba 3 to 5 ft. plants $20.00 each Limited supply — Order by March 1st Northrop is the hardest mulberry we've found. The parent tree was planted on the Northrop farm in the 1850's. Its location in just outside of Potsdam, and it is the only mulberry for 70 miles in all directions. It is now over 2 1/2 ft in diameter and 70 ft tall These plants are propagated via tissue culture rather than by grafting, so they are genetically identical to the parent from root to tip. Even though the Northrop exhibits great hardiness, (it has survived minus 50°F,) young plants may take some winter dieback due to extremely rapid growth in their first few seasons. With care, Northrop can fruit in 3-5 years. Self-fertile.

St. Lawrence Nursery
Sea Buckthorn, Seaberry

Orange berries, silver-gray foliage- thorns; 10-12’ roadside hedge; tough, salt and drought-tolerant, for alkaline soils.

Astringent berries high in Vit. C & E

Female and male types (Dioecious) ‘Harvest Moon’ female, from prairie provinces of Canada fewer thorns, compact easier harvest,

‘Orange September’- female from Canada higher sugar 13.7 Brix

• **‘Leikora’** Seaberry

• Easy to grow and adaptable. Semi-upright growing shrub features charming silvery green foliage. In late summer and into fall, bright orange berries surround the branches, occasionally used in striking floral arrangements. Berries are edible and high in vitamins A, C, and E. Simply squeeze them, sweeten with sugar or honey, and enjoy the deliciously nutritious juice. Heavy bearer even into winter; produces up to 25 lbs. of berries on one plant. Pest- and disease-resistant. Cold hardy. Ripens in September.

• **‘Seaberry Pollinizer’**
Attractive and diligent. Delight in ornamental beauty in winter and spring with its large golden-brown flower buds. A necessary pollinator for Leikora. Will pollinate up to 8 Leikora seaberry plants. Seaberry Pollinator does not set fruit.