

# Fruit for Small Gardens.

When choosing fruit for small gardens, the following should be taken into consideration:

1. Pollination requirements. Most Top (tree) fruit require a pollinator, so more than one cultivar needs to be grown. If self fertile cultivars exist (e.g. Conference Pear), it is possible to grow just one.

It is possible to buy 'Family Trees' – two or three cultivars grafted on to one tree to save space.

Most soft fruit do not require pollinators, though Blueberries crop better if a second cultivar is grown.

2. Rootstocks. Most Top Fruit is grown on rootstocks to control vigour.  
Rootstocks to go for are:

Apple - M27 (extremely dwarfing), M9 (very dwarfing), M26 (dwarfing).

Pear – Quince C – semi dwarfing. There are no dwarfing rootstocks for pears.

Cherries – Inmil (very dwarfing), Damil (semi-dwarfing) or Gisela 5

Plums – Pixy

Peaches, Apricots etc St. Julien A (semi- vigorous).

3. Tree forms. Cordons, fans, espaliers etc take up less room than bush forms, and can be used for soft fruit such as gooseberries, redcurrants etc.  
New upright cordons such as Ballerina (Chris Bowers) and Minarette (Ken Muir Fruits) now available.

Utilise wall space to save on garden space. Having a wall against which fruit is grown can also produce earlier crops especially if the wall faces south.