Highland Pear

Pyrus communis 'Highland'

Height: 40 feet

Spread: 30 feet

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 5

Other Names: Common Pear

Description:

A sturdy fruit tree which produces large, firm yellow fruit with a reddish-brown blush in fall; very showy white flowers in spring; needs a pollinator, fallen fruit can be messy, can be susceptible to fireblight

Edible Qualities

Highland Pear is a large tree that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces large yellow oblong pears (which are botanically known as 'pomes') with a tan blush and white flesh which are usually ready for picking in early fall. The pears have a sweet taste and a juicy texture.

The pears are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking
- Juice-Making

Features & Attributes

Highland Pear is bathed in stunning clusters of white flowers with gold eyes along the branches in early spring. It has forest green deciduous foliage. The glossy pointy leaves turn an outstanding deep purple in the fall. The fruits are showy yellow pears with a tan blush, which are carried in abundance in early fall. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.



Highland Pear fruit
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder



Highland Pear flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

This is a dense deciduous tree with a shapely oval form. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy
- Disease

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Highland Pear is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- Shade
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Highland Pear will grow to be about 40 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 30 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 4 feet from the ground, and should not be planted underneath power lines. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more. This variety requires a different selection of the same species growing nearby in order to set fruit.

This tree is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This is a selected variety of a species not originally from North America.