

Lavant Horticultural Society

Fruit Trees – Pollination Compatibility

When deciding on fruit trees for the garden, or allotment, or even patio, one of the most important factors to bear in mind is pollination, especially for apples, pears and plums/gages/damsons.

The vast majority of varieties of these fruits require pollination by a different variety to set fruit. Even many self-pollinating varieties will produce fruit more reliably when pollinated by another variety. So it is worthwhile checking that the varieties you have in mind are compatible when it comes to pollination.

Even if you are not thinking of planting any more fruit trees, this could help explain why you are not getting a good crop from an existing fruit tree.

Here are two **tools for checking pollination compatibility** that are easy to use:

www.ashridgetrees.co.uk/gardening-advice/fruit-tree-advice/pollinationchecker

www.orangeppintrees.co.uk/pollinationchecker.aspx

Also, the **RHS provides comprehensive pollination compatibility lists:**

for **apples** – <https://www.rhs.org.uk/fruit/apples/choosing-cultivars>

for **pears** – www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?pid=378

for **plums, gages & damsons** – www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=383

Bear in mind that bees and other pollinators do not respect garden boundaries. So your neighbours may already be growing varieties that could be pollinators for the ones you have in mind.

Also, many ornamental crab apples are good pollinators for apple varieties.

The websites mentioned above also give a lot of additional information and advice on the choice, planting and cultivation of fruit trees.

*Just click the blue internet addresses above to open up the websites **in your browser.***

These links do not imply that any commercial enterprise is endorsed by Lavant Horticultural Society.