

Pear

Pyrus communis · Rose family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Deciduous perennial tree
MATURITY 3–4 years to first fruit



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Regular, deep



SOIL PH
6.0–6.8



SPACING
4–6m



DEPTH
graft union
above soil

01 Chill hours & pollination

Like apples, most pears need both a winter chill period and a compatible pollinator variety nearby — check both before choosing which varieties to plant.



loose stake, first year

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant bare-rooted while dormant.
SOIL	Well-drained, moderately fertile.
TIMING	Plant in winter while dormant.

04 Problems

- **Fireblight** — blackened, scorched-looking shoots; prune out well below the affected area, sterilising tools between cuts.
- **Codling moth** — larvae tunnel fruit; use pheromone traps and bagging.
- **Pear and cherry slug** — skeletonised leaves; hose off or dust with wood ash.
- **Poor fruit set** — insufficient chill or no pollinator.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY

Comfrey

Daffodil

AVOID NEARBY

Walnut (allelopathic)

ROTATION NOTE

Not applicable — long-lived perennial tree.

03 Growing care

- Choose a variety suited to your region's chill hours.
- Plant a compatible pollinator nearby.
- Prune in winter to an open, airy shape.
- Pick slightly under-ripe — most pears ripen better off the tree.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Fruit reaches full size but is still firm — most pears are picked slightly early.
METHOD	Lift and twist gently; ripe fruit separates easily.
CURING	Ripen at room temperature for several days to a week.
STORAGE	Cool storage keeps unripe fruit for months; ripen small batches as needed.