

Pears of Gloucestershire and Perry Pears of the Three Counties

Introduction

Listed below are all the varieties included in Charles Martell's *Pears of Gloucestershire and Perry Pears of the Three Counties* in 2013, with any additional information that has been discovered. Since its publication, the National Perry Pear Centre has been able to benefit from the wider availability of identification utilising a cultivar's DNA markers, by arranging the analysis of the entire perry pear collection. With the benefit of these results, it has discovered that a few are known by other names. This frequently appears to be when a dessert variety has been found to make a worthwhile perry. When appropriate a note has been made of the "perry" synonym. (**both these categories have names coloured green below**),

In general, throughout this update the term *variety* is used for perry pears rather than *cultivar*, because so many perry pears result from chance crossings, often in barely cultivated situations. The entries below include the location reference numbers of those varieties in the National Collection orchards which have been checked by DNA analysis, and the number by which it is known in the register of local cultivars. In a few cases the variety is also held in the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale in Kent, in which case that number is also given. There will also be a more detailed description of each variety available at www.fruitid.com - however the entry may not be ready to be viewed for a time whilst research and photography is completed.

Background to the National Collections

In 1991 Charles Martell conceived the idea of establishing a collection of perry pears. Farms across Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire were scoured for the old varieties. 59 had been rediscovered and planted as a National Collection around the Three Counties Agricultural Society showground at Malvern by 1998.

In 1999 a second collection was started by Jim Chapman at Prestberries Cottage in Hartpury, near Gloucester to replicate and extend the Malvern collection. In 2003, Hartpury Heritage Trust was given 25 acres on which to establish a third national collection in charitable ownership. The National Perry Pear Centre headquarters has been erected there.

Although feral apples and pears growing in the Severn Vale were mentioned in 1100 by William, a monk from Malmesbury Abbey, it was in mid-17th century that pears that were especially suitable for perry were sought out. It is recorded that these were selected from the wildings or feral pears growing in the villages around Malvern and May Hill on the borders of Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Hartpury, a village that took its name from the hard pear, being one of these, so is an appropriate location for the collection. The intention is to continue with collections on the three sites as far as space permits to provide an element of greater bio-security.

The current situation

The first orchard at Malvern was established as a reference collection, a source for propagation and to conserve the genetic resource for the nation. In 2019, the Malvern orchards contained 148 trees of 73 varieties. In the collection catalogue these have the prefix M. The main orchards at the National Perry Pear Centre contain 277 trees of 118 varieties. There is also a bush rootstock trial orchard. In the catalogue, the trees have the prefix Cpe. The primary purpose of this collection is to provide the space needed to extend the Malvern collection to include more of the pear varieties used for perry and to include a number from other parts of Europe. The Prestberries orchards contain 250 trees of 142 varieties. In the catalogue trees have the prefix Ppe. This collection has a rather wider research brief. Its primary purpose remains to replicate the other collections, but in addition the collection has three other objectives. Firstly, it includes a group of common dessert varieties for comparison and a number that are less familiar, secondly, it extends the collection to include some European perry varieties including many that have red-flesh and thirdly it has a collection of more ancient varieties to aid investigation of the origins and natural hybridisation of the perry pear in the wildwood, known as the *Shadow Orchard*.

Funding

Hartpury Heritage Trust, the charity which owns the Centre and manages the National Perry Pear Collection, is a small village charity. Other than Natural England's Countryside Stewardship programme, it receives no financial support towards maintaining the collection, nor for any research activities, although the *National Association of Cidermakers* for 3 years provided support (unfortunately no longer continuing) enabling the planting of a rootstock trial. The Trust works closely with Gloucestershire Orchard Trust, mutually supporting each other's activities.

Arlingham Squash:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe44

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes: DNA of Mother tree verified

Barland:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe3

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P2_17

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Barnet:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe47, M4

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P2_21

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Bartestree Squash:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe40, M145

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Beetroot, Wick Court Alex:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe5

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes: Beetroot is a generic term for these U.K. red-fleshed pears first used by Long Ashton Research Station

The juice of this pear has been found to retain its colour following fermentation

DNA of Mother tree verified

Beetroot, Wick Court Ella:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe8

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes: Beetroot is a generic term for these U.K. red-fleshed pears first used by Long Ashton Research Station

DNA of Mother tree verified

Beetroot, Wick Court Eric:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe9

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes: Beetroot is a generic term for these U.K. red-fleshed pears first used by Long Ashton Research Station

DNA of Mother tree verified

Betty Prosser:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe24, Cpe12 , M125

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes: originally found only in Corse, Gloucestershire, research discovered a link with Monmouth. Further investigation has found this variety in a number of orchards near Monmouth

Bird Pear:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe218

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Blakeney Red:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe25, W17

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P2_01

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Blood Pear:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe229, Cpe120

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P217

Notes: Since publication of Pears of Gloucestershire and Perry Pears of the Three Counties, an old tree of the same variety has been found on a farm in the neighbouring village of Ashleworth, possibly the source of the Hasfield graftwood

Boy Pear:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe77, M97

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Brandy:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe4, M62,

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Brinarl:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe202

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P134

Notes:

Brockhill:

Varieties once thought to be Brockhill, following DNA analysis, have been revealed to be Brandy

Brown Bess:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe203, M48, M80

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P213

Notes: The Brown Bess photographed in Pears of Gloucestershire and Perry Pears of the Three Counties was misidentified and has been renamed Tirley Brown. The description prefixed "after Luckwill and Pollard" is of the true Brown Bess immediately following.

Brown Bess:

Synonym: Gloucester Brown

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe183

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P252

Notes: The true Brown Bess, found in many orchards south of Gloucester

Bunch Pear

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe148, Cpe184

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Butt:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe48

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P2_03

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Butter:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe229

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P109

Notes: The first Butter Pear collected for the National Collection proved to be incorrect. The description and photographs in Pears of Gloucestershire and Perry Pears of the Three Counties are therefore suspect. The example now in the collection is believed correct.

Cannock:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe94

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Christmas Pear:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe113, M37

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Ciphrous:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe126, Cpe187

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Claret:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe22, M47

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Clusters:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe83, Cpe15, M110

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Coppy:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe156, Cpe213

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Cowslip:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe48, M111

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Cygnet:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe223

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Dead Boy:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe49, M147

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Ducksbarn:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe84, Cpe14, M126

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Early Blunt Red:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe85, Cpe17, M122

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Early Griffin:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe86, Cpe18, M96

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Early Hay:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe192

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Early Taynton Squash:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe74

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P1_03

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Flakey Bark:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe87, Cpe20, M123

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):1649

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Gennet Laurel:

*DNA matches **Jargonelle:***

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe185, Cpe194

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P12_09

DNA sample number: P128

Notes:

Gin:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe118, M8

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P2_07

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Green Horse:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe6, Cpe81, M10

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P1_05

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Green Longdon:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe153, Cpe198, M150

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Green Olive:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe83

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P634

Notes:

Green Roller:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe150, M85

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Greggs Pit:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe88, M70

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Hampton Rough:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe233

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P110

Notes:

Harley Gum:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe89, Cpe27, M76

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Hartpury Green:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe1, Cpe3, M132

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Hellens Early:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe23, Cpe58, M9

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Hellens Green:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe111

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Hendre Huffcap:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe27, Cpe31, M72

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P1_07

DNA sample number: P226

Notes:

High Pear:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe78, M94

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Hillend Green:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe200, M82

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Holme Lacy:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Pp154, Cpe84, M59

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P243

Notes:

Holmer:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe243, M148

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P236

Notes:

Honey Knob and Honeydew are both 'perry' synonyms for Hessle:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe115, Cpe86

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Jenkins Red:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe90, Cpe88, M144

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Judge Amphlett:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe161, Cpe211

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P1_01

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Knapper:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe79, M69

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Late Taynton Squash:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe75, M57

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Lullam:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe29, Cpe32, M7

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Lumber:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe69, Cpe33

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Merrylegs:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe110, Cpe61, M141

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P633

Notes:

Moorcroft:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe26, Cpe13,

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P1_09

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Nailer:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe70, M112

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Newbridge:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe71

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

New Meadow:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe72

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Old Home:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe127, Cpe29, M084

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P05_25, P02_25

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes: Old Home is an American dessert pear often used as a stembuilder on account of its resistance to Fire-blight

Oldfield:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe14

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P1_11

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Packhorse:

*Following DNA analysis, has been revealed to be **Red Pear:***

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe201

DNA sample number: P133

Notes: There being no widespread use of this name, it is not regarded as being a synonym, merely a case of mis-recording at the time the graft was collected from the Bulmer's Coronation Orchard.

Painted Lady:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe33, Cpe 62, M135

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes: Early dessert. This is not the same as Blakeney Red perry pear, which also has the synonym Painted Lady

Parsonage:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe21, M11

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P1_13

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Penny Pear:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe109

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Pine Pear:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe50, M139

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Pint:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe51, Cpe36, M91

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Potato:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe36, Cpe4

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Red Longdon:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe121,

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P285

Notes:

Red Pear:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe9, M13

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Rock:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe15, Cpe68, M39

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Rock (Wick Court form):

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe215

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P261

Notes:

Sack:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe38, M130

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Sickle Pear is the 'perry' synonym for **Seckle:**

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe116

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P12_H

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes: Seckle or Seckel is an American dessert pear

Snake Pole:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe112, Cpe90, M87

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Speart:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe132, Cpe93

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Staunton Squash:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe52, M3

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Stony Way is the 'perry' synonym for **Beurré Diel**

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe108, M79

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Strawberry Pear:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe221

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Swan's Egg:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe93

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P14_41

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Sweet Huffcap now accepted as being **Hellens Early:**

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe44

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Teddington Green:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe76, Cpe41, M146

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Teegar:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe200

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P135

Notes:

Thorn:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe16, Cpe71, M116

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P1_15

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Thurston's Red:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe77, Cpe42

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Tirley Brown:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe203, M48, M80

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: P213

Notes: The Brown Bess photographed in Pears of Gloucestershire and Perry Pears of the Three Counties was misidentified and has been renamed Tirley Brown.

Tumper:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Cpe44, W5, W7

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Turner's Barn:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe17, M77

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Water Lugg:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe106, Cpe73, M58

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

White Bache:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe131, Cpe96, M45

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

White Longdon:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe54, Cpe74, M118

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s):

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes:

Winnal's Longdon:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe22

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P2_15

DNA sample number: phase one series

Notes:

Yellow Huffcap:

National Perry Pear Collection number(s): Ppe163, M2

Included in the Register of Local Cultivars

National Fruit Collection number(s): P1_17, P1_18

DNA sample number: phase two series

Notes: