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PEAR TREE

Pyrus

 1978

There is one striking difference between a pear tree and mankind. A pear tree is at its most fertile after its hundredth birthday and can become three hundred years old! Imagine how many delicious pears it can produce in that time.

In ancient China, where the pear tree has been cultivated for more than 6000 years, inheriting an old pear tree is considered a sign of wealth. In the 17th century, there were around 300 species of pear trees, now there are more than 5000. Sweet, juicy hand pears and firm stewing pears are a true gift from Mother Nature. They are rich in fibre and vitamin C (most in the skin) and can be made into the most delicious desserts. And don't forget pear brandy. The blossom of the pear tree is delicate and white. Pear wood is reddish in colour. It is hard and resists splitting and warping despite repeated soaking. It is much prized for making high-quality woodwind instruments, furniture, umbrella handles and measuring instruments.

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