

Stages of Cherry Development



Dormant

- This period begins when the last leaves have fallen from the tree in the fall. It extends until spring when the buds formed the previous year begin to swell.
- This is the overwintering stage.



Swollen Bud

- Buds formed the previous year tend to have a brown coloration. When the tree has left dormancy, the buds begin to swell and the tips of the buds turn green, an indicator that growth has begun.



Bud Burst

- The buds have become almost entirely green at this point. The tips have begun to split and separate. Brown color is visible at the base of the bud where it attaches to the branch.



Early White

- In this stage, the tips of the green buds give way to tiny glimpses of white petals beneath.



White Bud

- Here we see the white buds push out of their sheaths and are visible as white buds.
- Stems lengthened



Bloom

- Bloom technically begins when the first flower opens completely.
- More often the term is used to convey the fact that the majority of the buds have opened and the cherry tree is covered in open blossoms.
- This is the period when pollination occurs. No pesticides are applied during this time since pollinators like honeybees visit the tree.



Petal Fall

- This stage is apparent when the stems are left but less than 25% of the petals remain on the tree.



Fruit Set

- Below the calyx (structural components of the flower) a slight swelling becomes visible following petal fall, if the flower was pollinated. The swelling continues as the fruit develops. This stage is sometimes called "in the shuck" or "Husk Fall"



Fruit Development

- The cherries continue to grow in size, remaining green for more than half of their development time. As they near maturity, the colors begin to change.
- Most cherries go from green to yellow and later to various shades of red. Some varieties stay yellow.