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Luscious

*a high quality dessert
pear for the North*



Luscious

a high quality dessert pear for the North

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"Luscious" is the name of an excellent new dessert pear adapted to parts of the Northern Great Plains which previously have been unable to grow high quality pears. Luscious may have value across the continent just north of the range in which dessert pears are presently grown.

Luscious is a result of a cross made in 1954 between South Dakota E31 and Ewart. It was selected as South Dakota 67S11 in 1967. South Dakota E31, a pear of unknown parentage, was selected by the late S. A. McCrory of the South Dakota State University Horticulture-Forestry Department. Ewart, also of unknown parentage, is a pear of excellent quality introduced in 1928. It was discovered along a farm fencerow by Mortimer Ewart of East Akron, Ohio.

Luscious is early maturing, usually harvested by September 20 at Brookings. The fruit ripens after about 7 to 10 days of storage at 67° F. The fruit will remain in choice eating condition for approximately 2 weeks. If stored under refrigeration it will keep much longer. It is moderately productive but requires good pollinators.

The fruit is very juicy, sweet, and has a pleasant flavor similar to but more intense than Bartlett. The flesh is melting but firm, and remains firm to the core when ripe. Luscious fruits are medium to

medium-small, bright yellow, and may have an attractive red blush which tends to be mottled. The skin is thick but tender. Fruit shape is oblong-obovate-pyriform. Dots are numerous, brown, small and conspicuous. The cavity is acute, narrow, medium in depth, furrowed and often lipped. The stem is about one inch long, of medium thickness, and often protrudes from the cavity at an angle. The basin is shallow, narrow and wavy. Calyx lobes are open, erect, separated at the base, and tips are acuminate. The calyx tube is urn shaped, broad, and stamens are marginal. The core is distant. Seeds are wide, acute, brown and few in number. The tree is globe shaped. Summer foliage is a deep glossy green and late autumn foliage color is red. Older bark is gray underlaid with reddish brown. The tree is apparently more resistant to fireblight than most pears but is not immune to the disease. Trees for the Northern Great Plains should be propagated only on hardy pear rootstocks such as "Harbin" pear.

Luscious consistently is an excellent dessert pear. It is not a processing pear. Its pleasant flavor, high quality, hardiness, and early maturity should make it a popular fruit for home growers and roadside markets in South Dakota and other northern states.