

## APPLE VARIETIES

There are several considerations to make when choosing apple tree varieties including apple type, ripening date, tree size and what is available in garden centers. Use this list as a guideline but remember that these varieties may not be available in all places and there may be others that may be suitable in your area.

Apple trees grown on dwarf or semi-dwarf rootstocks are recommended for home orchards. They are smaller in size than standard trees and therefore easier to spray, prune and harvest. They begin bearing fruit two to three years earlier than standard trees and they bear about the same amount of fruit as standard trees.

All apple trees need to be cross-pollinated to produce fruit. This means that pollen from a different variety that blooms at the same time must be nearby. (Nearby is not an exact distance... closer is better but a neighbor's tree can do the trick.) You can also bring cut branches from a tree that is in bloom and place them in amongst your tree. Some trees for home gardens come grafted with a pollinating variety on them.

Apple trees will bear quality fruit only when they are maintained properly. Prune annually to maximize light and air circulation throughout the tree and spray to control apple scab disease and codling moth damage.

This list of suggested varieties is grouped according to fruit ripening. **Early** ripening apples are picked in August or early September. **Mid-season** apples are picked mid-September to early October. **Late** varieties are picked mid-October or later. Ripening dates may vary a bit from region to region and from one year to the next.

### *Early ripening apple varieties:*

**Yellow Transparent:** Pale greenish yellow skin, medium sized fruit. Strong flavor, good as cooking apple. Matures late July.

**Lodi:** Similar to Yellow Transparent. Matures early August.

**Earligold:** Yellow apple, good flavor, stores longer than other early types. Ripens early September.

**Gingergold:** Yellow apple, stores well. Ripens late August.

**Akane:** Red, firm apple of medium size. Good flavor. Some scab resistance. Ripens early September. Also called Tokyo Rose.

**Tydemans Early:** Red skin, medium size. Ripens late August, early September.

*(Continued on back)*

**Paulared:** Red skin, medium size. Susceptible to scab and mildew. Ripens late August.

**Prime:** Red, disease resistant apple of fair fruit quality. Ripens late August.

**Gravenstein:** Can be yellow, red striped, or full red. Large, crisp, tart apple. Late August or early September ripening.

***Mid-season ripening apple varieties:***

**Gala:** Yellow background with red stripes or red blush apple. Other strains, such as Royal Gala are redder. Medium sized, crisp apple. Ripens late September.

**McIntosh:** Large, red apple. Excellent dessert apple but soft and doesn't store well. Susceptible to scab and mildew. Ripens mid-September.

**Priscilla:** Red, disease resistant. Spicy flavor. Ripens mid September.

**Chehalis:** Greenish, yellow apple, medium large in size. Slightly more tart than yellow Delicious. Ripens mid-September.

**Spartan:** Red, firm, medium sized apple. Stores well. Ripens late September.

**Liberty:** Yellow apple with red stripes. Crisp. Resistant to scab, fireblight and mildew. Ripens early October.

**Empire:** Red, medium sized apple. Firm, stores well. Cross between McIntosh and Red Delicious. Mid to late season, ripens in early October.

**Cortland:** Red, large, soft fruit. Susceptible to scab. Mid to late season, ripens early October.

***Late ripening apples***

**Jonagold:** Orange, yellow fruit, firm, juicy. Ripens mid October.

**Galasupreme:** Not a Gala Apple! Yellow apple with red blush. Ripens mid October.

**Idared:** Red, large, tart apple. Stores well. Ripens mid-October.

**Sir Prize:** Large, yellow, soft, disease resistant apple. Best for immediate use. Ripens mid-October.

**Golden Delicious:** Yellow, medium large apple. No relation to red Delicious apple. Heavy cropper and susceptible to biennial bearing. Short storage. Ripens early October. Many strains available.

**Red Delicious:** Red, medium large apple. Many strains available. Ripen mid October.

**Rome Beauty:** Large red apple, mild flavor. Good baking apple. Ripens late October

***Too late for Northeast Washington:***

Winesap, Pink Lady, Granny Smith, Mutsu, Fuji, Braeburn, Newton Pippin and Northern Sky apples ripen after Rome Beauty and may not mature in this growing season, at least for consistent production.