

Apple Trees

New York's history is rich in apple cultivation! With so many varieties grown in the state, it can be difficult to choose which will be best suited for your needs. This guide can help you choose from the varieties we carry here at Bristol's Garden Center, so you can enjoy fresh apples straight from your garden!

Getting Started

Well-drained, loamy soils with a pH between 6.0 and 6.5 are best suited for apples due to higher nutrient retention. Remediate your soil to meet these requirements if necessary.

Eliminate as many **weeds** as you can from the site before planting. Mulching with **leaf compost, sawdust and/or peat moss** will suppress weed growth and help build up organic matter.

Plant your apple trees **any time after the soil warms up after winter**. The **earlier** in the season, the faster they can establish a **strong root system**. Later in the season works as well, but **will require more frequent watering** until the first frost.

Utilize **organic 10-10-10 slow-release granular** fertilizers at the start and middle of the growing season to promote growth for the rest of the year.

Protect from disease!

Two simple preventative measures that can be taken to reduce disease incidence every year include: (1) Use **preventative** fungicides, such as **neem oil**, as the buds begin to break each Spring, and (2) Make sure there are **no junipers** planted near (within 1 mile) the apple trees. Junipers harbor many diseases which can affect apple productivity.

Light Requirements



For optimum yields, **all** apple cultivars require **6+ hours** of direct sunlight in a day.

How many plants are needed to produce fruit?



All of the apple cultivars we carry **require a cross-pollinator**, meaning two apple trees are required to produce fruit. There are some cultivars that pair better for higher yields than others. The **cross-pollinator** chart on the following page will provide guidance as to what cultivars work best together.

Another option for **cross-pollinating** apple trees would be to plant a **crabapple tree** near an apple tree. **Crabapple trees** tend to have a longer bloom period, allowing them to cross pollinate a variety of apple cultivars for a longer period of time.

Whichever route you choose, you can plan on enjoying the fruits of your labor within one to two years after planting!



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Cross-Pollinator Chart

All varieties of apple trees require some cross-pollination for fruit set. Even though some varieties are listed as self-fruitful, they will set fruit more heavily and more regularly if they are cross-pollinated. Trees should be located within 100' of each other for best pollination. Below is a chart that will help you decide which apples will provide you with the best pollination.

To use the chart:

- 1) Select the variety you are interested in growing from the top.
- 2) Follow column down, any box that is blank means that they are a good pollinator. Any box that has an X means that they are not compatible.

Variety to be Pollinated

	Braeburn	Callaway	Cortland	Crimson Crisp	Crispin (Mutsu)	Dolgo	Empire	Enterprise	Fuji	Ginger Gold	Golden Delicious	Granny Smith	Honeycrisp	Jonamac	Liberty	Lodi	Macoun	McIntosh	Northern Spy	Pink Lady	Red Delicious	Royal Gala	Rubens	Snapp Stayman	Snowdrift	Spartan	Winesap	Zestar	
Braeburn	X			X															X								X		
Callaway		X																											
Cortland			X																										
Crimson Crisp	X			X									X	X	X									X					
Crispin (Mutsu)	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Dolgo						X																							
Empire							X																						
Enterprise								X																					
P o l l e n S o u r c e	Fuji								X																				
Ginger Gold										X																			
Golden Delicious											X						X												
Granny Smith												X																	
Honeycrisp													X																
Jonamac				X										X					X								X		
Liberty				X											X				X								X		
Lodi				X												X			X								X		
Macoun																	X												
McIntosh																		X											
Northern Spy	X													X	X	X			X					X					
Pink Lady																				X									
Red Delicious																					X								
Royal Gala																						X							
Rubens																							X						
Snapp Stayman	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Snowdrift																													
Spartan																										X			
Winesap	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Zestar																												X	

Source: <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/orchard-management/pollination/>



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Apple Cultivars

Below are apple cultivars we currently carry and those we have had in the past.
The cultivars in **red** are those we have stocked for 2026.

Cortland

Size (h x w): 12-15' x 12-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Early-Fall

Bright red, medium-sized fruit. A crisp, slightly tart apple of high quality. Blooms mid-season.

Empire

Size (h x w): 12-15' x 12-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Mid-Fall

A blend of both sweet and tart. Crisp red skin with a juicy, creamy white flesh. Best when eaten right off the tree. Excellent for cider and baking. Resistant to rust and fireblight.

Freedom

Size (h x w): 12-15' x 12-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Early-Fall

Great disease resistance, these apples are great for cider, juicing, cooking, and eating.

Ginger Gold

Size (h x w): 12-15' x 12-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Late-Summer

This tart, large, yellow fruit is one to eat right off the tree! Best eaten when freshly picked and rinsed.



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Granny Smith

Size (h x w): 15-20' x 15-20'

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Mid-Fall

A classic favorite, with a crisp bite and a sweet tart flavor. Shiny green fruits that are great for fresh eating but known better for baking and cider making. Stores very well for up to 6 months.

Honeycrisp

Size (h x w): 15-20' x 15-20'

Cold hardiness: Zone 3

Ripe: Mid-Fall

Excellent taste, but also known for its storing capability. This sweet-flavored late season selection retains its crispness even after seven months of storage. A great selection because of its versatility, taste and productivity.

Macoun

Size (h x w): 12-15' x 12-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Mid-Summer

Exceptionally high-quality fruit are dark red and firm. Considered by many as one of the best for fresh eating.

McIntosh

Size (h x w): 15-20' x 15-20'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Early-Fall

One of the most popular apples grown in the Northeast. Productive variety that yields medium-sized, bright red fruit. With a tender, thin skin, these apples are good for fresh eating or cooking.



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Northern Spy

Size (h x w): 12-15' x 12-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Mid-Fall

A must-have for northern gardens. Blooms late to avoid late spring frosts. Fruit is large, bright red, and exceptionally juicy, with a crisp tender texture. In proper storage, fruit can keep up to 5 months. Originates from East Bloomfield, New York in the early 1800s.

Pink Lady®

Size (h x w): 8-10' x 8-10'

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Late-Fall

First to bloom and last to harvest, this fruit has a variety of applications due to its flavor profile consisting of sweet and sour notes with a snappiness unique to this series of cultivars.

Red Delicious

Size (h x w): 10-15' x 10-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Early-Fall

Everyone loves this apple for its extremely sweet and juicy flesh. Good for fresh eating and salads. Vigorous grower, resistant to fireblight and cedar rust.

Royal Gala

Size (h x w): 12-15' x 12-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Late-Summer

A deep red apple with sweet, crisp flesh that is perfect for both eating and cooking.



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Tasty Red Fruit Snacks

Size (h x w): 8-10' x 2-3'

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Late-Summer

Working with a narrow space, but NEED apples? This small, columnar apple tree bears full-sized fruit while maintaining a width of 2 feet and a height no greater than 10 feet! Fruit bears 1-2 years after planting.

The 4-in-1 Cold Climate

Size (h x w): 12-15' x 12-15'

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Varies

Four apple varieties on one tree, all are compatible for cross-pollination. Cultivars included are Lodi, Melrose, Sweet 16, and Yellow Delicious.

*Below are apple varieties we are not currently stocking.
We may stock these again in the future!*

Ambrosia

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Early-Fall

Produces medium to large apples that are pleasant tasting, crisp, and juicy. Its smooth skin has a subtle yellow background color with pinkish-red color overlaying it. Round, upright form with white flower buds appearing in the Spring.



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Braeburn

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Early-Fall

An old-fashioned favorite with a firm, crisp texture and a real depth of flavor. Crisp flesh with the perfect balance of sweet and tart.

Crimson Crisp

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Late-Summer

A disease-resistant dessert apple! Keeps 4-6 months in proper storage. Deep crimson skin covers sweet, crisp, and juicy yellow flesh. Great sweet & tart flavor. Disease resistant to apple scab.

Crispin (aka Mutsu)

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Early-Fall

Complex and spicy flavor, with a great crunch and a mouthful of sweet juice. Excellent for fresh eating, but also makes a great sauce and baking apple.

Enterprise

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Early-Fall

A newer variety, bred to have excellent disease resistance, especially to scab, cedar-apple rust, and fireblight. The fruit has a dark red skin with a firm and crisp, yellow flesh. Great flavor with a spicy aroma and mild tartness – very similar to ‘Fuji’. Keeps well in storage.



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Frostbite

Cold hardiness: Zone 3

Ripe: Mid-Fall

Medium sized apple tree with a rounded form. Great in desserts, ciders, or drying!

Fuji

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Mid-Fall

A crisp and juicy apple that keeps well in storage. The flesh is sweet and crisp with light green skin and a red blush. Vigorous and productive. Pollinate with any mid-season blooming apple.

Goldrush

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Mid-Fall

This tree produces delicious, late-maturing golden apples at an early age. Goldrush features beautiful pink-white flowers in the spring, and consistent fruit production in the fall.

Jonamac

Cold hardiness: Zone 3

Ripe: Early-Fall

Similar to McIntosh in terms of flavor but a bit sweeter. Crisp, bright red skin blushed with a white flesh and very sweet with a hint of honey.



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Liberty

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Late-Summer

A low-maintenance variety due to its natural disease resistance to apple scab, cedar apple rust, fire blight, and powdery mildew. Fruit has a yellow background with attractive red overtones, a crisp white flesh, and a sweet-tart taste.

Royal Red Honeycrisp

Cold hardiness: Zone 3

Ripe: Mid-Fall

Bright red apples can be found all throughout this tree. They are juicy, sweet, crisp, and have a high storage capacity.

Rubens (Civni)

Cold hardiness: Zone 5

Ripe: Late-Summer

Nice round apple with red and orange striped skin. A firm apple with a well-balanced flavor that is both tangy and sweet, much like its parent 'Royal Gala'. Hardy to Zone 5.

Snapp Stayman

Cold hardiness: Zone 4

Ripe: Mid-Fall

Bright red apple, with very crisp, yellow flesh. Great juicy, tart flavor. A vigorous grower producing high quality fruit. This apple is great for baking. Hardy to Zone 4.



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Summerred

Cold hardiness: Zone 3

Ripe: Late-Summer

An early season producer of dark red, oval fruits with sweet and tart flavors and a crisp texture. Good for both fresh eating and cooking. Smaller size great for home orchards.



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