



Apple:

General info: Apple trees (*Malus pumila*) are the most popular and widely grown fruit tree in America. Most apple trees require cross-pollination with another variety. On average, apple trees will grow to 10-15' tall and 5-10' wide.

Landscape uses: Specimen or shade tree

Ornamental qualities: Showy pinkish-white blossoms in spring; interesting tree form

Planting: Plant in full sun. Early morning sun is important to help dry the leaves and reduce the chance of disease. Well-drained soil is necessary. When planting, cut off any broken or mutilated roots if necessary, otherwise keep root pruning to a minimum. Plant the same depth as grown in the nursery. When the hole is half filled, firm the soil with your feet before filling the rest of the way. Pack the soil firmly. Do not leave a depression around the tree. Water well after planting to help eliminate air pockets.

Pruning: Apples need to be pruned into a vase shaped tree with an open center to promote good air circulation and to let sunlight in. This helps reduce the chance for disease, and makes it easier to harvest the fruit. Pruning should be done during mid-February, or in the summer after fruit harvest. First remove dead, diseased, broken, and low hanging limbs. Do not allow the tree to form a dominant central leader. Prune out any crossing braches growing back towards the center, and any vigorous, upright shoots that developed from the inside of the main branches. You can think of the tree being pruned to look like your hand with your palm facing up, cupped, and fingers spread. Approximately 4 weeks after bloom, thin out the apples so there is about 6" between each fruit. Removal of excess fruit is necessary to ensure proper ripening and to reduce limb breakage.

Fertilizing/Watering: Fertilize in spring and summer. Keep fertilizer at least 6" from the trunk and do not dump large amounts in small areas, as root burn may occur.



Varieties:

Tropic Sweet: Excellent sweet flavor similar to a MacIntosh apple. Green base with red blush. Low chill (250 hours). Ripens in June. Pollinate with Anna, Dorsett Golden, or Ein Shemer.

Anna: Sweet, slightly tart, crisp, creamy white flesh. Light greenish-yellow skin with slight red blush. Large size fruit. Stores well. Ripens in June. Low chill (250 hours). Pollinate with Tropic Sweet, Dorsett Golden, or Ein Shemer.

Dorsett (Golden): Firm, smooth, crisp flesh with a sweet and tart flavor. Yellow skin with an orange-red blush. Medium to large fruit. Ripens in mid-June. Low chill (250 hours). Pollinate with Tropic Sweet, Anna, or Ein Shemer.

Ein Shemer: Crisp, tart flavor. Large, Golden Delicious type. Very productive. Ripens in mid-June. Low chill (350 hours). Pollinate with Tropic Sweet, Anna, or Dorsett. The mild flavor of the golden-yellow apple fruit is sweet and juicy with a white texture.

Gala: Medium sized. Crisp, sweet, and juicy. Excellent flavor. Round shaped. Golden yellow skin with a reddish orange blush. Pollinate with Granny Smith or Fuji. Ripens early August.

Fuji: A favorite for fresh eating. Medium size. Firm, crunchy, juicy, white fleshed. Excellent flavor. Reddish-green color. Pollinate with Gala or Granny Smith. Ripens in mid-October.

Granny Smith: Considered the best pie apple in the world. Attractive bright green skin. Firm, sweet/tart flavor. Self-fertile. Pollinate with Gala or Fuji. Ripens in late October.