



## Fact Sheet

# Apples

Apples will grow throughout Australia however areas such as Tasmania where winters are cold and summers are mild provide ideal climates for their successful cultivation. Most apples bloom in mid October, thereby escaping late frosts in all but the coldest areas.

### **Cultural Information:**

Apples need good drainage, soil that is too wet in winter is a sure recipe for disaster. Trees prefer good sunlight however many will tolerate partial shade. Green varieties such as Granny Smith need less sun than red varieties which need sunlight to colour the fruit.

Plant trees in winter, usually purchased bare rooted from your local nursery (e.g. Stoneman's Garden Centre), whilst they are dormant. Enrich the soil with blood and bone or slow release fertiliser, we recommend Osmocote for trees, water in well, ensure branches are pruned back hard.

Planting apple trees close together, (approx. 2 metres) will restrict their vigor and increase their fruit bearing. The same effect can be created by planting 2 trees in the same hole. More information on various methods of planting fruit trees can be discussed with this nursery. Usual planting is about 4-5 metres apart.

Plants in pots can still be planted during the season provided the tree is well watered and protected from harsh sunlight.

Once trees are of bearing age fertilise in early spring or post harvest with 8-4-10 (up to 3kg for large trees) or with blood and bone enriched with potash (up to 200gm per tree).

It is important to thin fruit to ensure good quality, good sized apples and regular bearing of fruit. When the fruit is about the size of a walnut remove all but one fruit from each bud, ensure fruit spacing is approximately 15cm apart.

Apples fruit mainly on short spurs on 2 year old wood so when pruning take this into consideration.



Most apple varieties in Tasmania will set reasonable crops without a pollinator provided the weather and bee activity is favorable however planting another compatible variety will improve fruit set. Varieties such as Mutsu and Gravenstein have sterile pollen and do require a pollinator.

Apple trees are excellent grown up against a wall (espaliering) or as a fruiting hedge or in large containers when grafted on to a dwarfing root stock. When grown in tubs ensure you use a good quality potting medium such as Stoneman's Premium Potting Mix. An important new introduction in recent years has been the 'Ballerina' variety of fruiting apples. Narrow column trees that will only grow about 60cm wide they are ideal for tubs, planter boxes or areas where space is limited.



### **Pests and Diseases:**

Main pests that affect apple trees are codling moth, their infestation can be minimized in a number of ways:

- (i) spray with Carbaryl a few weeks after petal fall then at 4 weekly intervals until approaching harvest.
- (ii) pheromone lures - a new introduction that lures male moths into a sticky trap by way of pheromone attractants
- (iii) hessian bandages on trunks in December which are removed regularly and burnt
- (iv) thin out and remove infested fruit at an early stage.

Occasionally woolly aphis can be a problem, this rarely happens on grafted trees as the rootstock used is woolly aphid resistant however it is generally an indicator of excess nitrogen in the soil (blood & bone). Spraying with Clensel is effective. For disease problems apple scab (black spot) spray with Bordeaux or lime sulphur before flowering. Powdery mildew an occasional problem (particular with Jonathon apples) can be eradicated by spraying with Mancozeb.



## Main Varieties Grown:

### ***Cox's Orange Pippin***

Superbly flavoured apple. Yellow with red stripes. Needs cool nights. Mid Season.

### ***Crofton***

Excellent flavour. Red, sweet and crisp. Late season.

### ***Gala***

Mid season apple from New Zealand. Striped red apple. Excellent flavour, good keeper.

### ***Gravenstein***

Very early season. Needs pollinator. Can become soft if left on tree too long. Tends to crop alternate years unless thinned.

### ***Jonathon***

Very popular. Mid season. Crisp, juicy, aromatic.



### ***Lady In The Snow (Pomme de Neige)***

Early season. Good flavour. Red, crisp and juicy. Snow white flesh.

### ***Mutsu***

Late season. Very large, greenish-gold apple, good flavour. Needs pollinator.

### ***Golden Delicious***

Mid season. Sweet golden skinned apple. Good Bearer. Fruit shrivels unless kept in plastic bag. Universal pollen donor.

### ***Granny Smith***

Late season, crisp acid green. Good storage

### ***Red Delicious***

Mid season, very popular large, sweet and aromatic.

### ***Red Fuji***

Late season. Popular. Maroon skin, excellent flavour. Good keeper. Stores well. Beautiful colour. Major Tasmanian export to Japan.

### ***Pink Lady***

Crisp, juicy flesh, wonderful flavour.

### ***Jonagold***

Golden Delicious/Jonathan cross. Excellent crisp flavour.

