

FRUITION SEEDS

guide to organically planting

APPLE TREES

WHEN YOUR APPLE TREES ARRIVE HOME...

- ✓ Hooray! Open your tree box as soon as possible!
- ✓ We're here to help you & if you have any concerns about your tree, view our return & refund policy; email support@fruitionseeds.com within a week of receiving your trees.
- ✓ Hop into Fruition's *Caring for Bare Root Trees Upon Arrival* blog as well as our *10 Steps of Planting a Tree* blog, you're not alone! Our free online course, *Apples & Organic Orcharding*, has even more detail.
- ✓ Moisten your wrapped roots, pouring ~¼ cup of water via the top of the plastic wrapping
- ✓ Plant as soon as possible!
- ✓ Bring your curiosity & questions to Fruition's Apple Q & Qs and check our website for upcoming hands-on workshops.



Open your tree box the moment it arrives! As you greet your new tree family, pull them out of the box by their roots rather than tops, protecting the graft union. For a full tutorial, watch our how-to video 'Caring for Bare Root Trees' blog. A common mistake to avoid: unwrap rather than cut the plastic keeping your roots moist, preventing any cutting of roots. Trees are best planted when they're dormant in cool seasons. In spring they'll have no leaves and in fall they'll be fading, ready to fall off, pun intended (!), like the photo on the right.

If you're not able to plant immediately...

- ✓ Moisten your wrapped roots, pouring ~¼ cup of water via the top of the plastic wrapping, adding moisture every few days.
- ✓ Reseal your tree to maintain optimum humidity
- ✓ Keep your wrapped tree in a cool, shaded place indoors like a basement or garage. Avoid drafty areas.
- ✓ Check on root moisture every few days, adding moisture as needed. Reseal well!
- ✓ Trees arriving in the mail keep 2 weeks & often longer; prepare prior to planting so you're ready when the planting moment arrives! Wrapped Trees from Fruition's Tree Weekend keep 1 week and often longer.

10 STEPS FOR PLANTING AN APPLE TREE

~ for full details & video tutorials, hop into our "10 Steps for Planting a Tree" blog ~

1. ASSEMBLE YOUR TOOLS

Shovel/Pick Mattock	Compost
Digging Fork	Wood Chips
Clippers	Permanent Labels
Stakes & Post Pounder	Water
Wheelbarrow	Fencing
Rodent Guards (for fall)	A Celebratory Snack!



2. DIG THE HOLE

note: keep your tree roots moist while you dig a hole; be sure your tree has at least $\frac{3}{4}$ sun!

Depth: About 1 foot deep, your tree's roots are your guide: Your goal is for the very bottom of the trunk to be level with the surrounding soil. The bottom of the trunk is where the color changes to the root zone; usually this is evident by a distinct line between trunk and roots. Err on the side of a little high rather than too deep.

Width: Three feet is a solid minimum — your hole is significantly more wide than deep. This encourages wide feeder roots to expansively explore.

Spacing: Individual trees planted in a yard would love 10-20' between trees; semi-dwarf trees may also be planted in 'high density trellising' with 4-6' between trees. Find more details on our website.



3. PLUNGE THE STAKE

Though not all apple trees need staking, all semi-dwarf bare root stock from Fruition benefit from immediate staking. To prevent any stake from removing even the tiniest portion of your apple's roots, it's best to plunge the stake before planting your tree.

There are several approaches! One method is to find a strong $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 1" metal stake or conduit (found at many hardware stores) approximately 10 feet tall to pound 2 to 3 feet deep. Another is to source 'set screw couplers' allowing you to plunge a (more manageable) 4-5' length of conduit before attaching the second piece of conduit to gain the desirable height with ease.





5. WATER IS LIFE!

Once the tree is planted, fully saturating the soil is critical. If you can plant just before rain, this is the dream! If rain doesn't fall within a few days, supplemental water is crucial. For establishing trees, 1-2" of rain each week is optimal, translating to 1 or 2 5-gallon buckets of water per week. If drought hits in the first season, water 2-3 times per week until rain comes and rejoice: Usually young trees only need supplemental water in the first year of planting.



7. COMPOST & MULCH: BUILD YOUR TREE RING

Compost First! Once the tree has been watered, spread 2 to 3 inches of compost around your tree, keeping the compost away from the trunk and thus thin at the center. This helps the trunk stay aerated and resist rot.

Mulch Second! Next spread 4 to 6 inches of wood chips (hardwood is best, hardwood/softwood second best & avoid cedar as well as bark mulch) on top of the compost. The thicker the mulch layer is, the better and longer the weed suppression will be. Spread your mulch thin near the trunk.

4. PLANT THE TREE!

Hooray! The moment you've been waiting for!

Dunk your tree roots in water before planting, ensuring the very bottom of the trunk is level with the surrounding soil. (The bottom of the trunk is where the color changes to the root zone; usually this is evident by a distinct line between trunk and roots.) Backfill your hole with the soil you dug (including all but large rocks!) and don't be tempted to fertilize your tree: the compost and mulch ring (Step #7) will be ample. Gently tamp the soil to reduce air pockets.



6. ATTACH THE TREE TO THE STAKE

We use **rubber orchard bands** (available on our website in our Tree Abundance Kit as well as Garden Store) as well as home-made cloth ties to connect the tree to the support stake.

We tuck one band at 2', another at 3' and, if the tree is taller, place the third just below the tree top. Though they're UV resistant and will expand without inhibiting your tree, you'll likely need to replace them every few years.



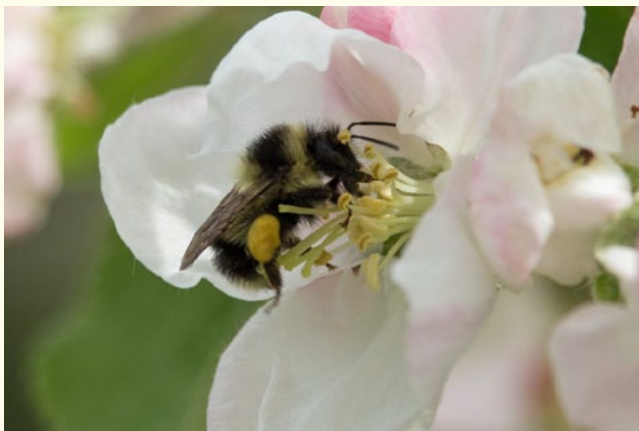


8. LABEL YOUR TREE

There are all kinds of permanent labels for trees and some of them hold up better than others. Some can be purchased (we share our go-to permanent labels on our website in our Apple Abundance Kit as well as at our Garden Store), others can be made at home (see our *10 Steps for Planting a Tree* blog!) and either way, make an orchard map in addition to your permanent labels.

9. OH, DEER!

Always, a deer fence is the easiest way to assure yourself of an orchard for years and generations to come. Unfortunately, high quality 8+ foot metal deer fences can be prohibitively expensive. A less expensive option is 8-foot tall plastic mesh black deer fencing hung tightly on posts. As a short-term deer exclusion technique, we can use metal livestock fencing or chicken wire to cage our trees until another option is ready for action.



10. NOW! TAKE A DEEP BREATH

We're so often in a rush and one of the greatest gifts of trees, if we choose to accept it, is to slow down. In the shade of branches and the beauty of blossoms, the joy of the birds and shared abundance with friends, let there be pause. No matter how brief, before rushing off to the next demanding moment, take a deep breath. Root yourself into the earth. Give thanks for your growing edges. Listen for birdsong. Feel your lungs fill. You are at home. You are among family.

May the trees we plant amplify abundance for us all.

Sow Seeds & Sing Songs,

petra : matthew

& the whole Fruition Crew

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SEASONAL FRUIT TREE CARE & CONSIDERATIONS

Knowing full well these pages can only give a broad overview of awareness, we humbly offer this seasonal journey through Apple tree care in the Northeastern U.S. Of course, our *Fruit Tree Blogs and Q&Q* recordings go into so much more depth; find these at <https://www.fruitionseeds.com/learn/product-category/?category=growing-trees>.

Please consider the resources available at <https://netreefruit.org/>, as well as the works & wisdom of Alex Shigo and Michael Phillips. We also recommend taking advice from local fruit growers in your area and from your state's cooperative extension services.

Please note: If you reside in another region, or at the most southern and northern edges of the Northeast, this journey may not align with what your tree requires.

SPRING (MARCH 21ST TO JUNE 20TH)

The busiest time of year for Fruit Tree Care, where our awareness is needed most!

FIRST YEAR TREES

- Digging holes and planting trees!
- Apply & maintain deer protection if needed.
- Install or apply Apple Borer protection to the tree trunk.
- Test your soil & apply or plan season appropriate amendments.
- Water weekly!
- Keep planting ring area weeded.
- Mow grass in the tree area thru the first season; this keeps water and nutrients more available to the young tree.
- Late April thru June: apply sticky trunk bands to deter Spongy Moth caterpillars.

SECOND YEAR TREES

- Pay attention and learn the Spring fruit tree bud stages at <https://netreefruit.org/apples/apple-bud-stages>
- Complete all Dormant Pruning while tree buds remain dormant.
- Remove Winter trunk guards once all snow has melted.
- Assess tree bands and staking; replace with larger size tree bands if needed.
- Install or apply Apple Borer protection to the tree trunk.
- Test your soil & apply or plan season appropriate amendments.
- Keep planting ring area weeded.
- Yearly lightly apply more compost and wood chips to planting ring area, and about 1 foot beyond.
- Mow grass in the tree area thru the second season; this keeps water and nutrients more available to the young tree.
- Consider a dormant oil spray for mites while tree buds are dormant.
- If Fireblight disease is a concern in your region, and your apple tree is not resistant, consider combining copper fungicide with this first dormant oil spray.
- Consider a second dormant oil spray for Aphid control at "Green Tip" or "Half-inch Green" tree bud stages.
- Late April thru June: apply sticky trunk bands to deter Spongy Moth caterpillars.

THIRD YEAR TREES & BEYOND

(for when fruiting begins!)

- Pay attention and learn the Spring fruit tree bud stages at <https://netreefruit.org/apples/apple-bud-stages>
- Complete all Dormant Pruning while tree buds remain dormant.
- In early Spring, remove cardboard trunk wrap traps where Codling Moth larva have overwintered. Burn or dispose.
- Remove Winter trunk guards once all snow has melted.
- Assess tree bands and staking; replace with larger size tree bands if needed.
- Install or apply Apple Borer protection to the tree trunk. Test soil & apply or plan season appropriate amendments.
- Keep the planting ring area weeded.
- Yearly, lightly apply more compost and wood chips to the planting ring area, and about 1 foot beyond.
- Consider a dormant oil spray for mites while tree buds are still dormant.
- If Fireblight disease is a concern in your region, and your apple tree is not resistant, consider combining copper fungicide with this first dormant oil spray.
- Consider a second dormant oil spray for Aphid control at "Green Tip" or "Half-inch Green" tree bud stages.
- Late April thru June: apply sticky trunk bands to deter Spongy Moth caterpillars.
- Before Bloom stage, consider hanging Codling Moth pheromone lures at eye level.
- At Petal Fall stage, consider hanging white sticky traps at head height to capture European Apple Sawfly. Remove traps in 4 weeks.
- Consider spraying Surround WP beginning at Petal Fall continuing thru early July to deter Plum Curculio (among other insects).
- Do not mow in Spring until after Petal Fall stage is finished.
- Consider keeping grass mown around trees until July 1st.



SUMMER (JUNE 21ST THRU SEPTEMBER 20TH)

Sun, Fun & some key Fruit Tree Care!

FIRST YEAR TREES

- Keep watering!
- Keep weeding the planting ring area!

SECOND YEAR TREES

- Keep weeding the planting ring area!
- Complete Summer Pruning between July 1st thru mid-to-late August.

THIRD YEAR TREES & BEYOND

(for when fruiting begins!)

- Keep weeding the planting ring area!
- Complete Summer Pruning between July 1st thru mid-to-late August. In late June, consider setting out “red sticky ball traps” with scent lure one per tree to reduce Apple Maggot Fly damage.
- Thru June, pick up and dispose of any fallen immature fruitlets. This is a natural fruit thinning cycle. These dropped fruitlets can contain insect larvae hoping to fulfill their next life stage. Btw chickens and other animals often love to eat these fruitlets and insect critters!
- Consider spraying Surround WP thru early July to deter Plum Curculio (among other insects).
- In July, consider placing a new round of pheromone traps for Codling Moth.

FALL (SEPTEMBER 21ST THRU DECEMBER 20TH)

Isn't this the best time of the year?

FIRST YEAR TREES

- Keep watering until the ground freezes.
- Keep weeding the planting ring area!
- If you were unable in Spring, take a soil test and apply season appropriate nutrients.
- Remove Apple Borer protection
- Install Winter trunk guards to deter rodent damage.
- After fruit harvest, install sturdy and reliable deer protection around trees if not already in place.

SECOND YEAR TREES

- Keep weeding the planting ring area!
- If you were unable in Spring, take a soil test and apply season appropriate nutrients.
- Remove Apple Borer protection.
- Install Winter trunk guards to deter rodent damage.
- After fruit harvest, install sturdy and reliable deer protection around trees if not already in place.

THIRD YEAR TREES & BEYOND

(for when fruiting begins!)

- Keep weeding the planting ring area!
- If you were unable in Spring, take a soil test and apply season appropriate nutrients.
- Starting right before apples ripen, mow the fruit tree area closely. Continue thru Fall.
- After fruit harvest, remove Apple Borer protection.
- After fruit harvest, install Winter trunk guards to deter rodent damage.
- After fruit harvest, consider installing a cardboard tree wrap around the tree trunk (above the trunk guard) to trap Codling Moth larva. Remove and destroy in early Spring.
- After fruit harvest, install sturdy and reliable deer protection around trees if not already in place.

WINTER (DECEMBER 21ST THRU MARCH 20TH)

No matter the age of the tree, consider these cold season tree care chores...

- After heavy snow and/or winds, check & repair the deer protection around fruit trees.
- Walk, snowshoe, and/or ski weekly around and amongst the fruit trees. These fun jaunts can disturb and disrupt rodent “highways” thru the snowpack.
- Begin Dormant Pruning at the end of Winter and continue into Spring as long as tree buds remain in their dormant stage.



QUALITIES OF FRUITION APPLES

<i>Variety</i>	Apple Scab Resistance	Fireblight Resistance	Powdery Mildew Resistance	Cedar Apple Rust	Culinary Uses	Harvest Season	Cold Hardiness
CORDERA®	Excellent	-	-	-	Storage, Fresh Eating, Sauce, Cider	Mid	Zone 4
CRIMSON® GOLD	Excellent	-	-	-	Storage, Fresh Eating, Sauce, Cider	Mid to Late	Zone 5
CRIMSONCRISP®	Excellent	-	-	Good	Fresh Eating, Sauce, Cider	Mid	Zone 5
ENTERPRISE	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Storage, Fresh Eating, Baking, Sauce, Cider	Late	Zone 4
GALARINA®	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Storage, Fresh Eating, Sauce, Cider	Mid	Zone 4
GOLDRUSH	Excellent	Good	Excellent	-	Storage, Fresh Eating, Baking, Sauce, Cider	Late	Zone 4
HELIODOR™	Excellent	-	Good	-	Storage, Fresh Eating, Sauce, Cider	Mid to Late	Zone 4
LIBERTY	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Fresh Eating, Sauce, Cider	Mid	Zone 4
PRISTINE	Excellent	-	Good	-	Fresh Eating, Sauce, Cider	Early	Zone 5
QUERINA™	Excellent	Good	Good	-	Storage, Fresh Eating, Sauce, Cider	Late	Zone 5
ROYAL CRIMSON® TOPAZ	Excellent	-	Excellent	-	Storage, Fresh Eating, Baking, Sauce, Cider	Late	Zone 5
TRIUMPH	Excellent	Possible	-	-	Storage, Fresh Eating, Sauce, Cider	Mid	Zone 4



FRUITION'S ORGANIC APPLE VARIETIES

Hardy to Zone 4



ORGANIC CORDERA APPLE TREE

Brilliantly sweet and perfectly tart, gloriously juicy and easy to grow! Cordera hails from the lineage of Honeycrisp and an unnamed relative of Liberty, combining flavor and disease resistance for the ages.

When we first savored Cordera in the fall of 2021, we fell in love with the bright fruit sweetness and rich aroma, the depth of flavor and the fabulous crunch. The bright rose and crimson skin shines with speckled yellow, straight out of a fairy tale.



ORGANIC ENTERPRISE APPLE TREE

Scrumptiously sweet and meltingly crisp with mild, nuanced acidity, squint your eyes through the vivid shine perhaps you'll see and taste the McIntosh in Enterprise's parentage. Deliciously

resilient, Enterprise combines high resistance to scab, cedar-apple rust and fire blight, quite a combination! Enterprise also resists blooming early, easily avoiding late frosts and stores up to six months with full flavor developing about one month into cold storage, the quintessential taste of winter's arrival.



ORGANIC CRIMSON CRISP APPLE TREE

A delightful mid-season dessert apple ripening at the end of September, Crimson Crisp is iconically round and quite possibly the brightest red apple we've seen. With yellow dapples

here and there and a signature shine, without exaggeration, Crimson Crisp practically beams! Sweet flavor and hints of cherry are balanced by just the right amount of tartness. A scab resistant variety with Jonathan and Rome Beauty parentage, Crimson Crisp is an excellent option for no spray and organic orchards.



ORGANIC GALARINA APPLE TREE

All lovers of Gala, hail Galarina! Delectably disease-resistant, rich Gala flavor shines through all winter long as sweetness builds in cold storage. Each medium-sized fruit is

perfect for snacking with fabulous crunch and glossy, thick skin easily storing through winter. Galarina is the best of both worlds with flavors from Gala and resilience from Florina, including resistance to apple scab, fire blight and powdery mildew, making them so much easier to grow organically! Compared to Gala, Galarina is more at home in the cold, hardy to Zone 4 with better flavor after months in storage, as well.





FRUITION'S ORGANIC APPLE VARIETIES

Hardy to Zone 4



ORGANIC GOLDRUSH APPLE TREE

One of the most luscious apples we've ever tasted and certainly our favorite winter apple bursting with deep, nuanced sweetness and such a satisfying crunch! The final apple we harvest in

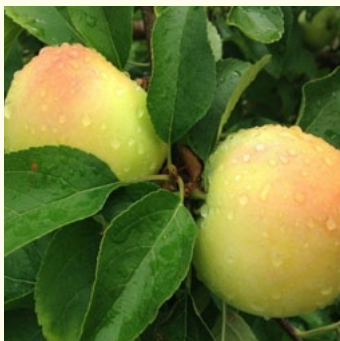
late November, Goldrush gets sweeter as they blush in the cold, undaunted all the way down to 22°F, -6°C. Lasting through May in the cellar, Goldrush is prime December through April.



ORGANIC TRIUMPH APPLE TREE

A luscious cross of Honeycrisp and Liberty, Triumph is incredibly juicy, crisp and sweet with just the right amount of tart. With flavors of 'honey and elderflower,' we loved our

2021 taste test where Triumph was described as 'dynamic' 'flavor explosion' and 'my new favorite apple!' A delectable mid-season apple with impressive disease resistance, Triumph ripens from late September through early October here in Zone 5.



ORGANIC PRISTINE APPLE TREE

Always the first apple to ripen, Pristine is a sweet and refreshing treat in the heat of August! Each green-yellow apple blushes gold when ripening with thin, smooth skin, glossy and

glorious to crunch. Resistant to scab, fireblight, cedar apple rust and powdery mildew, Pristine is an excellent choice for beginning as well as organic growers. Fabulous for fresh eating, Pristine is an ephemeral joy, remaining crisp only three weeks in cold storage. Hardy to Zone 4.



ORGANIC LIBERTY APPLE TREE

If you're looking for a deliciously disease-resistant and exceptionally versatile apple, Liberty will surround you with abundance for years to come! The sweetness of Liberty hails from

the parentage of Rome Beauty, Jersey Black, Macoun and Wealthy. In addition to savoring straight from the tree, we love Liberty's juicy yellow flesh and brilliantly contrasting purple-red skin for sweet cider, baking and sauce. Stored well, enjoy Liberty through February.



FRUITION'S ORGANIC APPLE VARIETIES

Hardy to Zone 4



ORGANIC CRIMSON® GOLD APPLE TREE

Known as 'Svatava' in Europe after the eponymous river that flows between Germany and the Czech Republic, this apple was renamed Crimson Gold once in the U.S. to celebrate its

luminous glow. Crimson Gold is famous for its excellent resistance to Apple Scab disease, and for its ability to hold in ideal storage for 6 to 8 months. With fruit harvest often beginning in early October, its unique aromatic sweetness and bright tart resonates with every crisp juicy bite.



ORGANIC HELIODOR™ APPLE TREE

Another delectable gem from the Czech Republic, Heliodor translates to 'gift from the sun' and is impressively resistant to Apple Scab and Powdery Mildew. These bright yellow

fruits blush orange with the sun, their light yellow flesh melding sugar & tart with an incredible crunch. A fabulous storage apple, Heliodor's best flavor arrives 2 weeks after its October harvest and continues to build, storing up to 4 months in the cellar.



ORGANIC QUERINA™ APPLE TREE

An Apple Scab, Fireblight and Powdery Mildew disease resistant beauty from France, Querina (also known as Florina) is a taste test favorite with a bright, balanced sweetness

hailing from the delectable Jonathan apple in their parentage. With a luscious, juicy crunch, Querina stores up to 3 months after its late October harvest, and is one of our go-to snacking apples.



ORGANIC ROYAL CRIMSON® TOPAZ APPLE TREE

Royal Crimson Topaz is deliciously resilient, beloved for its Apple Scab resistance and its crisp snow white flesh and brilliant sweet-tart

scrumptiousness. This gem hails from the Czech Republic, loved straight from the tree as well as in Apple Strudel!. We also love that Royal Crimson Topaz is slow to turn brown once cut, making it great for salads and pre-cut kid snacks. Fabulous in late October, Crimson Topaz stores 3 to 4 months in the cellar, allowing prolonged consumption of your favorite apple pastries.

