

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHOOSING AN APPLE TREE

To the best of our knowledge all apple trees we offer for sale are healthy. They should produce apples in a few years if given the proper conditions and care. We regret we are unable to replace any tree that does not survive. Please water and plant the trees as soon as possible. See detailed planting instructions which include container growing.

POLLINATION - Apples, except for a few that are self-fertile, need other apple trees nearby for pollination. Insects, rather than the wind, do the pollination. Choose 2 different cultivars with a similar flowering (bloom) time. Bloom time should be within 3 days of each other. Unless they are Triploids they should pollinate each other. For example, if one cultivar has a bloom date of Day 12, then any other cultivar (except a triploid) with flowering dates of Day 9 to Day 15 will pollinate it and be pollinated by it, providing the weather is good. If it is raining or cold the bees will not fly and pollination will not occur.

TRIPLOID APPLE TREES will not produce viable pollen. A triploid requires another tree blooming at the same time to pollinate it as well as another tree to pollinate the pollinator. It takes three trees to ensure they all produce fruit. (Only one of the three trees can be a triploid). Our triploid trees this year are: Belle de Boskoop, Bramley's Seedling, Gravenstein Red, Jonagold, Karmijn de Sonnaville, King of Tompkin's County, Orin.

ROOTSTOCKS - Our trees have been grafted on dwarfing rootstocks which make the trees smaller. M9 rootstock is a 'very dwarfing' rootstock producing a tree 6-8 feet high, about 25% of normal size. It is a good choice for a small garden with fairly good soil. B9 rootstock will produce a tree 6-8 feet high, 25-30% of normal size. B9 is hardy to zone 3 and so is useful for growing the trees in containers. Both M9 and B9 trees require permanent staking and routine watering and feeding. M26 is 'dwarfing', producing a tree 8-14 feet high, about 30--50% of normal.

CRAB APPLE TREES are used to enhance pollination in orchards because they bloom over a long period. Crab apples are smaller, under 2 inches (5cm) diameter. Our crab apples are Chestnut, Dolgo, John Downie, Hansen's Red Flesh, Hyslop and Wickson.

SCAB RESISTANCE - Scab is caused by a fungus. It makes unsightly dark spots on apples but is edible and does not affect the flavour of the fruit. It can be a problem in damp climates like the Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley so scab resistant trees are recommended for this area.

ESPALIER refers to the training of a tree to grow in a special form. Trees growing on any rootstock can be espaliered.

SELF FERTILE There are a few trees which are self-fertile and some are partly self-fertile. SF means they are able to produce apples without being pollinated by another tree. These could be used on balconies where bees are not likely to fly in to pollinate them. However, they will produce more fruit with cross pollination.

Our Self Fertile trees this year are: Brownlee's Russet, Dolgo Crab, Grimes Golden, John Downie crab, Lodi, Spartan.

Our Partially Self Fertile trees are Cortland Red, Cox's Orange Pippin, Epicure, Fuji, Howgate Wonder, Hudson's Golden Gem, Kidd's Orange Red, Lord Lambourne, Newtown Pippin, Newton Wonder, Northern Spy