

The Ark Farms – Heirloom Tree Descriptions

APPLES

Devonshire Crimson Queen – Rich crimson apple with a sweet-tart bite.

Harvest: Early fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: An English heirloom from Devon, prized for its vivid coloring and traditional cider use.

Black Oxford – Dark purple skin, crisp and mellow flesh.

Harvest: Late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: Originated in Maine in the 1800s and cherished for its cold-hardiness and storage quality.

White Lumbertwig – Spicy-sweet Southern apple with pale skin.

Harvest: Mid to late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: An obscure Appalachian variety once passed between neighbors for its resilience.

Knobbed Russet – Rough-skinned russet with intensely sweet, aromatic flesh.

Harvest: Mid to late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: An ancient English variety known since the 1600s for its unusual appearance.

Honeycrisp – Exceptionally crisp and juicy with sweet-tart balance.

Harvest: Early to mid fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A modern variety developed in Minnesota in the 1990s, now widely beloved.

Golden Dorsett Russet – Tropical sweetness with russeted skin.

Harvest: Early harvest (late summer)

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A rare variant of the Golden Dorsett, ideal for warm climates and low chill hours.

Granny Smith – Bright green and tart, great for pies.

Harvest: Late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: Discovered in Australia in the 1860s by Maria Ann Smith as a chance seedling.

Winekist – Dark red skin and red flesh with bold wine-like flavor.

Harvest: Early fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A 20th-century variety developed for its striking red flesh and high anthocyanin content.

Pink Old Lady – Rosy blush and balanced sweet-tart flavor.

Harvest: Mid fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: An older strain related to modern Pink Lady types, prized in antique orchards.

Pink Lady – Crisp and vibrant with sweet-acid balance.

Harvest: Very late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: Created in Australia in the 1970s, it became one of the first trademarked apples.

Orleans Reine – Honeyed, floral French apple.

Harvest: Late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A royal favorite in 18th-century France, known for refined flavor.

Newtown Pippin – Complex, tart-sweet flesh, excellent for storage.

Harvest: Late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: One of America's oldest apples, grown by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello.

Arkansas Black – Dark, firm apple with tart flesh that mellows in storage.

Harvest: Very late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: Originated in Arkansas in the 1800s; known for keeping qualities.

Wolf River – Huge apples with mild sweetness, ideal for baking.

Harvest: Mid fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: From Wisconsin in the 1870s, favored for its sheer size and pie-ready texture.

Niedzwetzkyana – Red-fleshed and deeply pigmented, with tart bite.

Harvest: Mid fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A rare Central Asian variety, ancestor to many red-fleshed breeding apples.

Cox Orange Pippin – Richly spiced English apple with juicy texture.

Harvest: Early to mid fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: Originated in England in 1825 and long considered the gold standard of flavor.

Silken – Smooth and sweet with floral notes.

Harvest: Late summer

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A newer Canadian variety developed for early harvest and dessert quality.

Blue Pearmain – Dusty blue skin, mellow sweet flavor.

Harvest: Mid to late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A 19th-century New England heirloom, favored by Henry David Thoreau.

James Grieve – Juicy and aromatic, with sharp-sweet balance.

Harvest: Early fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A Scottish favorite from the late 1800s, often grown for fresh eating and juice.

D'Arcy Spice – Firm apple with nutmeg-spiced undertones.

Harvest: Late fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A rare English apple from Essex, dating back to 1785.

Hudson's Golden Gem – Crisp russeted apple with honey sweetness.

Harvest: Early to mid fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: Discovered in Oregon in the 1930s as a chance seedling.

King of the Pippins – Golden skin with spicy, tangy flesh.

Harvest: Mid fall

Pollination: Requires 1 pollinator

History: A popular 18th-century European apple also known as 'Reine des Reinettes'.

PLUMS

Satsuma – Deep red Japanese plum with sweet-tart flesh.

Harvest: Late summer

Pollination: Needs 1 Japanese-type pollinator

History: Introduced from Japan in the late 1800s, widely grown in the U.S. for its bold flavor.

Golden – Yellow plum with juicy, honeyed flavor.

Harvest: Mid to late summer

Pollination: Needs 1 Japanese-type pollinator

History: A colorful hybrid popularized in American backyard orchards.

Incan – Small golden plum with intense sweetness.

Harvest: Mid to late summer

Pollination: Needs 1 Japanese-type pollinator

History: Named for its sun-gold hue, reminiscent of South American treasures.

French – Classic blue prune plum with rich, dryable flesh.

Harvest: Early fall

Pollination: Needs 1 European-type pollinator

History: A staple in European orchards for centuries, used in traditional prunes.

Italian – Dense, sweet plum ideal for drying or baking.

Harvest: Late summer to early fall

Pollination: Partially self-fertile; benefits from 1 pollinator

History: An Old World favorite brought to North America by early settlers.

Mirabelle – Tiny golden plum with perfumed sweetness.

Harvest: Late summer

Pollination: Needs 1 European-type pollinator

History: Cultivated in France since the Middle Ages, especially in Lorraine.

Reine Claude Dorée – Green-gold plum with luscious sweetness.

Harvest: Late summer

Pollination: Needs 1 European-type pollinator

History: Named after Queen Claude of France in the 1500s, treasured in European gardens.

Santa Rosa – Ruby-skinned, juicy plum with tangy flesh.

Harvest: Early to mid summer

Pollination: Partially self-fertile; better with 1 pollinator

History: Bred by famed horticulturist Luther Burbank in the early 1900s.

PEACHES

Indian Blood – Dark red flesh with rich, wine-like flavor.

Harvest: Late summer

Pollination: Self-fertile

History: A Southern heirloom traced to Spanish colonial orchards.

Peregrine – Soft, sweet English peach with intense fragrance.

Harvest: Mid to late summer

Pollination: Self-fertile

History: An 1800s English cultivar praised for flavor and tenderness.

PEARS

Asian – Crisp, juicy, and floral with apple-like crunch.

Harvest: Late summer to early fall

Pollination: Needs 1 compatible Asian or early European pear

History: Originated in East Asia and cultivated for thousands of years.

Anjou – Buttery, smooth flesh and sweet flavor.

Harvest: Late fall

Pollination: Needs 1 European-type pollinator

History: A 19th-century French pear prized for its versatility and storage.

CHERRIES

Bing – Large, juicy, sweet cherry with deep red skin.

Harvest: Late spring to early summer

Pollination: Needs 1 sweet cherry pollinator

History: Developed in Oregon in the 1870s by Chinese foreman Ah Bing.

ORNAMENTALS

Sugar Maple – Majestic tree with brilliant fall foliage and sweet sap.

Harvest: Non-fruiting

Pollination: No pollination needed

History: Native to North America and source of traditional maple syrup.

Red Maple – Fast-growing shade tree with fiery red autumn leaves.

Harvest: Non-fruiting

Pollination: No pollination needed

History: Native across the eastern U.S., known for adaptability and beauty.

Yoshino Cherry Blossom – Graceful spring blooms in soft pink and white.

Harvest: Spring

Pollination: No pollination needed

History: The signature cherry of Washington, D.C., gifted by Japan in 1912.

Okame Cherry Blossom – Early-blooming cherry with vivid pink blossoms.

Harvest: Early spring

Pollination: No pollination needed

History: A cold-hardy hybrid developed for early ornamental display.

Kwanzan Cherry Blossom – Double-flowered cherry with extravagant pink blooms.

Harvest: Mid to late spring

Pollination: No pollination needed

History: A Japanese variety loved for its showy spring presence.