

Petrofka Orchard Apple Cultivars

There is a wide array of apples available for sale at other local tree nurseries and garden centers. Some of them were developed at the U of S specifically for this climate, while others are developed elsewhere. Petrofka Orchard mostly sell University of Saskatchewan cultivars as they have been breeding apples since the 1920's. They have been able to develop varieties enhancing cold hardiness, fruit quality and storage life. Our stock is grafted onto Ottawa #3 rootstock that at mature height will reach 10-12 feet vs 20-30 feet.

While Petrofka Orchard has over 25 varieties growing in the orchard we only sells a few cultivars annually. Please check the current varieties for sale on the website.

We do not offer a guarantee on our trees & shrubs for several reasons- hungry animals, gardening abilities, human damage, extreme weather damage, overwatering, drought, insects, disease or poor soil conditions. Plants are living organisms that can die from a hundred different causes beyond our control. Plants are our business. We go to great lengths to build mutual trust with our customers and guarantee that any plant we send out is healthy and hardy.

Diana's Favorite - Prairie Sensation



Large, firm, crisp and juicy. Intense aroma. Similar to the Gala apple. Great for fresh eating, juicing and cooking. Stores for four months under proper condition. Ripens mid-September.

Diana's 2nd Favorite - Praire Sun



Crisp, moderately sweet and resistant to oxidation browning. Good for fresh eating and makes excellent processed products. Stores well for approximately 6 weeks. Ripens early September.

Basic Apple Tree Information

- All apples trees need an additional pollinator, such as a pear, crabapple, or another apple to ensure fruit production. Keep in mind most residential neighbourhoods will have another pollinator present, but it does not hurt to get two just in case.
- Apples tend to flower mid-late May.

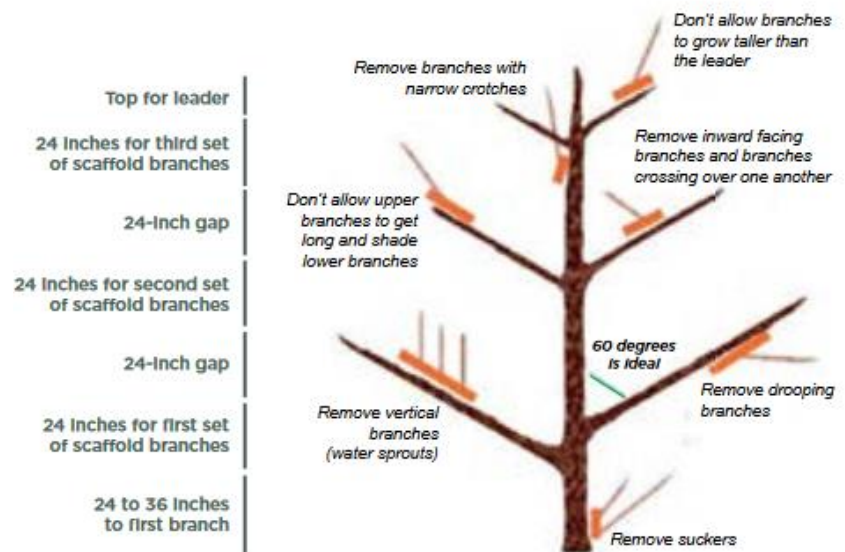
Planting

- Select your site:
 - Ensure your site's climate zone is appropriate for your trees.
 - Never plant into frozen ground. Ensure the risk of major frost is in the past!
 - Plant 10 ft apart and should be planted slightly deeper than the original nursery container.
 - Ensure your soil isn't too wet or too dry for your trees.
 - Be sure that your site receives sufficient sunshine.
- Prepare the area:
 - Remove any grass or weeds within 1 ft radius of where you will be planting the tree. If soil is compacted, loosen it up prior to planting.
 - You need to dig a hole twice the diameter of the root system and about a foot deeper.

- Plant your tree:
 - Note the level of the “bud union.” The goal is to have the bud union raised about 2” above ground level. The bud union is where the scion meets the rootstock as a result of grafting.
 - When you have dug out the proper depth, spread out the roots in the hole.
 - Moisten the soil and then fill your hole back in around the roots with soil.
 - Apple water as you fill the hole back in with soil, to remove air pockets.
 - Press firmly on the soil around the stem.
 - Amend your soil (optional): you may add bonemeal at the bottom of the hole to enhance growth. Just add the amount prescribed on the package and mix it thoroughly with the soil at the bottom of your hole. You can also help your tree grow faster by mixing potting soil into your hole if the ground is particularly tough.
 - Water thoroughly after planting but do not drown your tree if the soil is poorly-drained.
- Protect your tree:
 - To keep rabbits, mice and other pests away, install a vole guard around the trunk of your trees. Letting it protrude about 10” above ground level.

Pruning

- In the first year, you will not prune. The only thing you need to make sure is the tree develops a central leader.
- Pruning opens up the tree canopy to sunlight and air circulation and promotes fruit production and a healthy plant.
- Fruit trees must be pruned every year during the dormant period. (if you do not begin proper pruning early in the tree’s life the result is “alternate bearing” (one year’s bountiful while the following year’s is puny).
- Prune in early spring and in summer (only if you must). Avoid pruning in the fall since this stimulates new growth at the same time the tree should be getting ready for winter which can result in winter-kill.
- Ensure you have the proper pruning tools such as hand pruner (to remove small branches and twigs), loppers (long handles to remove larger branches) and a fold saw (if you need to remove limbs larger than 3” in diameter).
- Time to Prune:
 - Don’t begin pruning until you are in the 3rd year of growth.
 - Firstly, remove all dead, injured or diseased branches.
 - Remove bad branches – these include narrow angled branches and crisscrossing branches. Make your cut just above the branch collar (wrinkled part near the base where the branch is connected to the trunk). This portion has all the cells needed to heal wounds.
 - Secondly, look at branch angles growing from the trunk. What you want is your branches evenly spaced and at 45 – 50 degree angles. This means you can remove the competing branches that are too close to each other and are running parallel to the ground.
 - Remove suckers and water sprouts.
 - Also, remember a fruit tree should have only one central leading branch. Don’t allow two leader branches to form otherwise the tree will become weak.



- Thinning Fruit: Fruit should be spaced out 6 inches apart along the branches; thin out closely grown apples and select out the smaller-sized ones in favor of the larger ones.



Harvesting

- Hand pick the apples when you like the flavour. “Ripeness” is confirmed when the seeds are dark brown but pick them when you love the flavour!
- Twist and pull the apple when removing from the tree. If you pull straight off you will break the spur and leave no buds for the next year.

Pests

- Apple Maggot: The fly lay eggs in the fruit and the fruit will have maggots on the inside when the fruit is cut open.
- Deer mice and voles – these animals snack on apple trees. The mice and voles and other rodents can girdle the lower stem of the tree causing the tree to die.
- Fireblight – this is bacterial disease that gives the tree an appearance of being scalded by fire. Once a tree has this it will inevitably die. This disease can be slowed down by removing infected tissue. Fireblight thrives in high nitrogen conditions.
- Apple Scab – is a fungal disease that causes scabby patches on the apple fruits. This is more prevalent in wet years.

<i>Cultivar</i>	<i>Apple Colour</i>	<i>Apple Size</i>	<i>Type of Apple</i>	<i>Type of Variety</i>	<i>Ripening time</i>	<i>Taste</i>	<i>Texture</i>	<i>Other</i>
<i>Norland</i>	<i>Red blush over greenish yellow</i>	<i>6.5 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>Early</i>	<i>Slightly tart but good overall flavour</i>	<i>Slightly course</i>	<i>Falls when ripe</i>
<i>Rescue</i>	<i>Yellow green with a deep red blush</i>	<i>3.5 cm diameter</i>	<i>crab-apple</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>early</i>	<i>Tart but sweet</i>	<i>Crisp texture</i>	<i>Stores for 3 weeks, goes mealy fast</i>
<i>Fall Red</i>	<i>Dull red over a yellow green base</i>	<i>7 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>A bit tart but good overall flavour</i>	<i>Crisp and very firm</i>	<i>Stores up to 10 weeks</i>
<i>September Ruby</i>	<i>Bright red with green ribbing</i>	<i>6.5 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>A bit tart but a great eating apple</i>	<i>crisp</i>	<i>Stores up to 16 weeks, slightly thick skin</i>
<i>Norkent</i>	<i>Light green streaked with red</i>	<i>6-7 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>Juicy sweet and aromatic</i>	<i>Crisp with a slightly tough skin</i>	<i>Do not pick early, needs time to develop full flavour</i>
<i>Goodland</i>	<i>Creamy green washed with red</i>	<i>5-8 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>Fairly sweet</i>	<i>Fine textured and crisp</i>	<i>Some hardness issues in some locations</i>
<i>Battleford</i>	<i>Pale green striped with red</i>	<i>7 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>Slightly tart</i>	<i>Course and crisp</i>	<i>Stores up to 4 weeks</i>
<i>Carlos Queen</i>	<i>Green with a slight blush</i>	<i>7.5 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>Fairly sweet</i>	<i>Fine</i>	<i>Bruises easily</i>
<i>Westland</i>	<i>Green yellow overlaid with dull red</i>	<i>7-9 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>Juicy and fairly sweet</i>	<i>Crisp texture</i>	<i>Excellent for cooking</i>
<i>Prairie Sensation</i>	<i>Green with a reddish wash</i>	<i>7.5 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>U of S</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>Sweet with a great flavour</i>	<i>Firm, crisp and juicy</i>	<i>Requires very little fruit thinning</i>
<i>Misty Rose</i>	<i>Green with a deep red overlay</i>	<i>6.5-8 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>U of S</i>	<i>mid</i>	<i>Sweet and good</i>	<i>Firm, crisp and juicy</i>	<i>Falls quickly after it is ripe</i>
<i>Autumn Delight</i>	<i>Dark red over green underlay</i>	<i>6-7 cm diameter</i>	<i>apple</i>	<i>U of S</i>	<i>late</i>	<i>Sweet and good flavour</i>	<i>Slightly spongy and crisp and juicy</i>	<i>Resistant to browning, great storability</i>
<i>Kerr</i>	<i>Dark red to purple</i>	<i>4 cm diameter</i>	<i>Apple-crab</i>	<i>other</i>	<i>late</i>	<i>very juicy and sweet</i>	<i>Firm and crisp</i>	<i>Can be picked after frost, increases the sweetness</i>