

Selecting Apple Trees 2026

Selecting Your Apple Trees: We have chosen varieties that will not only survive but also flourish in Montana. At Swan River Gardens, you won't find trees for many supermarket apple varieties like Granny Smith, Gala, or Fuji as they are not hardy enough for our climate. The trees or more often, the flower buds, simply cannot withstand the conditions here.

Apples require cross-pollination: -- bees moving pollen from a pollen-donating tree to the receiving tree. Pollen-donating trees must be a compatible cultivar or simply put another variety apple tree that has an overlapping flowering period. For example, a Macintosh cannot pollinate another Macintosh. Another variety such as Red Wealthy or Liberty is needed. You will see that Swan River Gardens apple trees have color coded strip tags that help you pair varieties correctly. The letters **(E)** early, **(M)** mid or **(L)** late season are used to describe the bloom times for apples so look for these terms if you are selecting varieties elsewhere. An **(E)** early-season will have overlapping flowering with another **(E)** early-season as well as a **(M)** mid-season. A **(M)** mid-season tree will have overlapping flowering with an **(E)** early, **(M)** mid and **(L)** late-season. **(L)** late-season trees bloom period will overlap with a **(M)** mid-season or **(L)** late-season tree.

EXAMPLE		
(E) Early-Season		
	(M) Mid-Season	
		(L) Late-Season
Cross-Pollination, Overlapping flowering times for (E) early, (M) mid and (L) late-season		

Trees will not care if you plant one this year and its mate the next. Just be sure to keep track of which type you have planted.

We offer an extensive line of apple trees for our 2026 season. Please refer to this chart below for more information about their key attributes and selling points. Our inventory changes throughout our selling season so be sure to check our website swanrivergardens.com for our most up to date availability. Most of our apple trees are semi-dwarf and will grow 12-15' tall and wide when mature.

APPLES	AVG Ripening Date	Blooms	Pollinator	Zone	Flavor	Texture	Fresh	Pies	Sauce	Storage
Frostbite (semi-dwf)	Late Sept/Early Oct	MID	E-M-L	3	Sweet	Crisp	Good	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Haralred (semi-dwf)	Late Sept/Early Oct	LATE	M-L	3	Tart	Crisp	Very Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Honeycrisp (semi-dwf)	Late September	MID	E-M-L	4	Sweet	Crisp	Excellent	Good	Good	Excellent
Honeygold (semi-dwf)	Early/Mid-October	MID	E-M-L	4	Sweet	Crisp	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Good
KinderKrisp (semi-dwf)	Late August	EARLY	E-M	4	Sweet	Crisp	Excellent	Good	Good	Very Good
Kudos (semi-dwf)	Late September	MID	E-M-L	4	Sweet	Juicy	Excellent	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
Macoun (semi-dwf) NEW 2026	Mid-October	MID	E-M-L	4	Sweet	Crisp	Very Good	Good	Good	Good
McIntosh (semi-dwf)	Late September	MID	E-M-L	4	Tart	Crisp	Very Good	Good	Very Good	Fair
Norland (standard) NEW 2026	Mid-August	EARLY	E-M-L	2	Sweet	Tender	Good	Good	Good	Poor
Red Duchess (semi-dwf)	Late August	EARLY	E-M	3	Tart	Juicy	Good	Very Good	Very Good	Poor
Red Prairie Spy (semi-dwf)	Late September	MID	E-M-L	4	Tart	Crisp	Good	Very Good	Good	Very Good
Snowsweet (semi-dwf)	Mid September	MID	E-M-L	4	Sweet	Tender	Excellent	Fair	Excellent	Good
State Fair (semi-dwf)	Mid August	EARLY	E-M	3	Tart	Crisp	Very Good	Good	Good	Poor
Sweet Sixteen (semi-dwf)	Mid September	MID	E-M-L	4	Sweet	Crisp	Excellent	Fair	Good	Good
Triumph (semi-dwf) NEW 2026	Late September	MID	E-M-L	4	Tart	Crisp	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good
Winecrisp (semi-dwf)	Early/Mid-October	MID	E-M-L	4	Sweet	Juicy	Good	Excellent	Very Good	Excellent
Zestar (semi-dwf)	Late August	EARLY	E-M	4	Sweet	Crisp	Excellent	Very Good	Very Good	Very Good
CRABAPPLES NOTE: These crabapples can be used to pollinate any and all of the apple varieties listed above.										
Dolgo	Late August	E-M-L	Self	3	Tart	Crisp	Good	Good	Good	Good

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