

Planting Information



- 12-15' semi dwarf
- Native to Central Asia
- Varieties: Enterprise, Pristine, William's Pride, Redfree, Liberty, Sundance, Arkansas Black
- No wet feet, prefers well-drained soil
- Must have at least two different varieties for cross pollination
- At initial planting, we recommend planting allium companion plants (like chives) to deter pests

Top Pests to Look Out For

Other diseases or pests may be present, but these are the ones most commonly found in St. Louis.

Codling Moth and Oriental Fruit Moth: Eat the fruit from the inside, small and gray/brown in color

Treatment: Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, Bt sprays, sunflower companion planting

Apple Maggot Fly: Eat the fruit from the inside, small beige worms

Treatment: Apple maggot sticky traps

Fire Blight: Bacterial disease, identified by black curled leaves, flowers, and branches

Treatment: Removing diseased plant material, Monterey Complete Disease Control as a preventative

Seed St. Louis Recorded Classes & Resources

Holistic Sprays- Recipes and ingredients available to Giving Grove projects

Apple Maggot Traps and Tanglefoot glue, Monterey Complete Disease Control, Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt) - Available for purchase from our Seed St. Louis Store

Orchard Class Recordings- Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Available on our YouTube channel.

Companion plant recommendations- Handout available on website

Timeline of Care

Spring Care

- Application of four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (*Late February to Mid-May*)
- Complete the big yearly pruning and remove any branches infected by fireblight prior to foliage appearing (*Late February to Mid-March*)
- Remove any tree wraps placed in winter (*Early April*)
- For the first three Springs, remove all fruitlets to prevent fruit production (*Late April to Early May*)
- After three Springs, thin the fruits so that there is only the two largest fruitlets per cluster (*Prior to fourth holistic spray*)
- Place Apple Maggot Traps. (*Mid-May*)

Summer Care

- Complete a second thinning of the fruitlets so that there is the best fruitlet per cluster, one every 5 inches (*June*)
- Periodically check Apple Maggot traps, clean and replace glue when needed (*June to August*)
- Summer prune your apple trees to increase sun penetration and improve color, ideally during a dry period (*August*)

Fall Care

- Harvest when fruits are ready! (*September through November*)
- While harvesting, remove any mummified fruits and dispose of them outside of the orchard to prevent disease spread (*September through November*)
- Cut back or harvest allium companion plant (*September through November*)
- Gather all apple maggot traps, clean and store for the next year (*Mid-October to November*)
- Remove or shred all fallen leaves to prevent diseases from spreading (*Mid-October to November*)
- Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed of (*November*)
- Install tree wraps to protect trees from rabbits and voles (*Late November*)
- Apply a new layer of mulch to the base of the tree (*November*)

Ongoing Care

- During the first full growing season, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain. After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts
- Weed the mulch ring
- Plant any desired companion plants to benefit the orchard ecosystem (*Spring or Fall*)
- Scout for pests and remove any fallen or diseased fruit