

Apple Facts

‘Delicious’: (commonly referred to as “Red Delicious”)

Origin: Discovered about 1872 in the orchard of Jessie Hiatt, Peru (Madison County), Iowa. Thought to be a chance seedling of ‘Bellflower’ (found growing near a ‘Bellflower’ tree and the fruit shape was similar). Hiatt named the fruit ‘Hawkeye’. In 1893, Hiatt sent four apples to a fruit show in Louisiana, Missouri sponsored by Stark Nurseries (later Stark Bros’ Nursery) where it caught the attention of the Nursery’s president C.M. Stark. In 1894, Stark Nurseries purchased the propagation rights and re-named the apple ‘Delicious’. From this beginning, ‘Delicious’ apple went on to become the leading apple variety grown in the United State up to about the beginning of the 21st Century. Over 100 bud mutations for color and spur-type growth habit have been named. The flavor of today’s “improved” ‘Delicious’ is not as good as that of the original apple discovered by Jesse Hiatt. **Size:** Medium to large. **Shape:** Conic to ovate-conic; ribbed. **Ground color:** Yellowish-green. **Over-color:** Red washed or streaked or striped depending on strain. **Skin:** Medium thick; smooth; sometimes scarfed; bloom moderate. **Dots:** Conspicuous; numerous; slightly raised; light brown; round; uniform. **Cavity:** Acute to obtuse; medium to shallow depth; wide; smooth; sometimes russeted. **Stem:** Medium to long; medium thickness, often clubbed. **Basin:** Medium depth; medium to wide; abrupt to acute shoulders; prominently furrowed; shoulders prominently lobed. **Calyx:** Large; green; closed to partly closed. **Calyx lobes:** Long; medium to wide; converging with reflex tips. **Flesh:** Yellowish-white; fine-grained, crisp. **Flavor:** Pleasantly sub-acid; sweet. **Quality:** Good to excellent. **Use:** Fresh and sauce. **Harvest:** Late September in Iowa (about 155 days \pm 5 days after full bloom). **Remarks:** Leading cultivar in the U.S. Color and spur-type strains are available with over 150 having been named. Very resistant to cedar apple rust, but susceptible to quince rust; resistant to fire blight and powdery mildew; susceptible to apple scab.

‘Golden Delicious’: (sometimes referred to as “Yellow Delicious”)

Origin: Found in Clay County, West Virginia in 1914. Chance seedling of ‘Grimes Golden’. **Size:** Medium to large. **Shape:** conic to ovate-conic. **Ground color:** Greenish-yellow to whitish-yellow. **Over color:** Sometimes develops a pink blush on sun exposed side. **Skin:** Medium thickness; rough; sometimes scarfed or russeted; bloom very scant. **Dots:** Conspicuous; many; uniform; raised; stellate; russeted or brown. **Cavity:** Acute; medium depth; medium width; often russeted; shoulders rounded. **Stem:** Long; slender; uniform. **Basin:** Medium depth; medium-narrow width; abrupt shoulders, slightly furrowed. **Calyx:** Medium to large; closed. **Calyx lobes:** Medium to long; narrow; converging with reflex tips. **Flesh:** whitish-yellow; firm; tender; crisp; fine; juicy; does not oxidize (turn brown) when sliced. **Flavor:** sprightly sub-acid. **Quality:** Very good to excellent. **Use:** Fresh, baking (slices retain shape), chunky sauce, drying. **Harvest:** One week after Delicious. **Remarks:** Excellent all-around apple and leading cultivar in the world. Fruit are susceptible to moisture loss in storage and should be stored in polyethylene bags. Fruit are prone to skin russetting although russet resistant strains are available. Spur-type stains are available, but tend to be more prone to russet. Susceptible to apple scab, fire blight and powdery mildew, and very susceptible to cedar apple rust.

Chieftain:

Origin: Introduced in 1966 by the Iowa State University Horticulture Department, Ames, Iowa. Controlled cross of ‘Jonathan’ x ‘Delicious’; made by S.A. Beach in 1917. **Size:** Medium-large to large. **Shape:** Variable - conic-oblate to truncate, sometimes oblique; ribbed; irregular. **Ground color:** Greenish-yellow. **Over color:** Bright red; washed. **Skin:** Thick; tough; smooth, sometimes rough; bloom medium to light. **Dots:** Very conspicuous; raised; tan or russeted; large, stellate, numerous; concentrated near basin. **Cavity:** Acute; medium to deep; medium to broad; sometimes russeted. **Stem:** Medium to long; medium thickness. **Basin:** Medium to broad; medium depth; acute to obtuse; prominently ribbed; shoulders lobbed, sometimes irregular. **Calyx:** Medium to small; green; closed to open. **Calyx lobes:** Medium to short; medium width; converging to erect. **Flesh:** Yellowish-white; firm; crisp; juicy; somewhat coarse. **Flavor:** Sprightly sub-acid, sweet. **Quality:** Good to very good. **Use:** Fresh and baking. **Harvest:** One week after Delicious. **Remarks:** Tree has exhibited good winter hardiness, is moderately vigorous (attaining a size similar to Jonathan) with a spreading non-spur-type growth habit similar to Jonathan and will fruit laterally on previous season’s shoot growth, but tends to be somewhat slow coming into production. Fruit color well, have a very good storage life, but are prone to Jonathan spot and water core. Tree is relatively resistant to apple scab and fire blight. Has gained some popularity regionally, but not nation-wide. Trees can only be obtained through custom propagation contracts.