

2024
Avery County Cooperative Extension Center
Plant Sale Catalog



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2024
Avery County Cooperative Extension Center
Plant Sale

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Plant Sale

General Information

Welcome to the 2024 annual Avery County Cooperative Extension Center Plant Sale. We look forward to providing the community with plants, which keeps Avery County the traditional rural mountain county it has always been. Keeping with that mission, we focus on **Southern Heirloom Apples, Blueberries, and Brambles**. These are the traditional fruits of Avery County and our ancestors. The plants naturally do well in our climate and require minimal pesticide input. We are confident they will do well for you. Please utilize the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service publications to make the most of your plants. These plants should give you many years of traditional fruit for your family. The educational publications are located on the Avery County Cooperative Extension Center website at:

<http://avery.ces.ncsu.edu>

Please contact the Avery County Cooperative Extension Center at 828-733-8270 if you have questions regarding the plant sale information contained here. **Payment is expected at the time of ordering.** ***If paying with cash, please have the exact amount of the order.*** **WE DO NOT ACCEPT DEBIT OR CREDIT CARDS.**

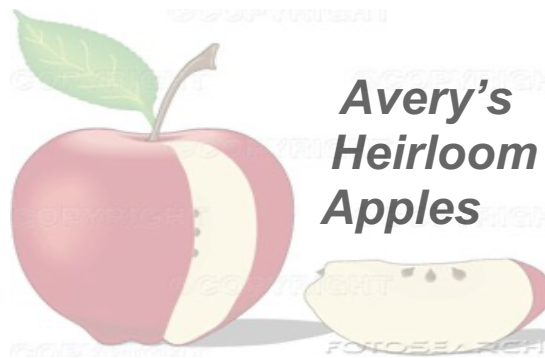
The staff expects to distribute the plant orders on Thursday - Friday, April 11 and 12, 2024. Plant orders will be distributed from the Avery County Cooperative Extension Center (Heritage Park Fair Grounds) at 661 Vale Road, Newland, N.C. You will be contacted by phone and/or by email to confirm the pick-up date and time.

Plant orders must be received by **Friday, April 5, 2024**. We want to guarantee that supplies of these varieties will hold out, but we cannot. **So, the earlier you place your order, the better.**



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We have had a great interest in Heirloom Apples in our area. Through the help of many local folks, we have found a significant number of the heirloom apple varieties that have been in Avery County since the early 1800s. Along with history and production help, we are able to provide orchard ready trees identical to the historic apples of our ancestors in Avery County.

Most of the apple trees in the sale are grafted onto M-111 semi-dwarf rootstock. Your tree will reach about 15-20 feet in height and need to be planted 20 feet apart. The apple trees are two years old and will be approximately 4 feet tall at the time of planting.

M-111 rootstock qualities include:

- Good disease resistant
- Do well in a wide range of soil types
- Can withstand wet spells and moderate drought conditions fairly well
- Will usually produce fruit in 5-6 years (5 years sooner than standard rootstock)

****Crimson Crisp (Dwarf)** is grown on Geneva 202 (G202) rootstock.

We recognize that many people making purchases through this plant sale are home-gardeners/backyard orchardists and are looking for "low input" fruit trees. In order to better facilitate this, we offer many "easy to grow" apple varieties producing good fruit with minimum pesticide use.

You will find a detailed variety of information in the **"Apple Reference Guide"** to learn about and compare varieties. Please note that this information is based on both solid science and personal observations.



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Pollination is an important topic when growing fruit trees because many, but certainly not all varieties, require pollination from a compatible donor tree before they can bear fruit. Most apple trees need another variety to cross-pollinate for optimum fruit production. Often, the neighbor's apple trees and even seedling apple trees nearby help with this pollination.

A general rule to follow is to plant apple varieties that flower (bloom) simultaneously. Some varieties that bloom early may stop producing enough pollen when the late-blooming varieties start blooming; therefore, not enough pollination occurs to produce a good apple crop. Planting an apple tree listed as late-blooming with an apple tree listed as early-blooming may not give you satisfactory cross-pollination.

We listed the blooming times in our Apple Reference Guide this year to allow you to choose compatible apple trees in your planting. This is only a general guideline. Blooming times are listed as Early, Early/Mid, Mid, Mid/Late, and Late season. Again, expecting an early-blooming apple variety and a late-blooming variety to pollinate each other may be a mistake. All other combinations should be sufficient. If you have other apple trees planted on your property within 100-200 feet, they will certainly play into this pollination system.

Some apple varieties produce **sterile** pollen. These trees are called **Triploids** and will not pollinate other trees. Triploid trees can be pollinated by other trees and produce excellent fruit; they just cannot be depended on to pollinate your other trees. We will offer two triploid varieties this year in our plant sale: Newtown Pippin and Mammoth Blacktwig. Both trees are excellent apples.

Please contact the Avery County Cooperative Extension Center if you need help with the bloom times or any additional information on the pre-existing apple trees.



Apple Reference Guide

Apples	Fresh Eating	Sauce/Butter	Baking	Cider	Stores Well	Ripens	Easy to Grow	Bloom Time Season
Yellow June	F	E	P	P	P	July	E	Early
Early Harvest	F	G	P	P	P	July/Aug.	E	Early
<i>Williams's Favorite</i>	E	F	?	F	F	July/Aug.	E	Early
<i>Red Astrachan</i>	G	G	E	G	P	August	E	Early
<i>American Summer Pearmain</i>	E	G	G	P	P	August	F	Early/Mid
McIntosh	G	P	E	G	G	September	E	Mid
Crimson Crisp (G202)	E	G	G	G	G	September	G	Mid
Wolf River	P	E	P	P	F	Sept./Oct.	G	Mid
Pumpkin Sweet	G	G	E	F	G	Sept./Oct.	G	Late
Smokehouse	E	E	E	E	E	Sept./Oct.	G	Early/Mid
Esopus Spitzenberg	E	F	E	E	G	Sept./Oct.	F	Mid/Late
American Golden Russet	E	F	E	E	E	October	G	Early/Mid
Virginia Beauty	E	F	E	P	E	October	G	Early/Mid
Granny Thompson	E	E	E	G	G	October	G	?
Grimes Golden	G	G	E	E	G	October	G	Mid
**Mammoth Blacktwig	G	E	G	G	E	October	G	Mid
Buckeye Beauty	E	?	G		E	October	?	Late
Goldrush	E	F	G	G	E	October	G	Mid/Late
Royal Limbertwig	E	E	G	E	F	Oct/Nov	G	Mid
Sheepnose	G	G	E	G	P	Oct/Nov	?	?
** Newtown Pippin	E	F	E	G	E	Oct/Nov	F	Mid

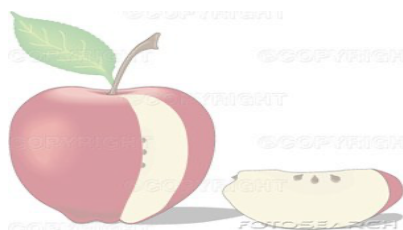
This information was gathered from many sources and should be considered as opinions.

- *P = Poor F = Fair G = Good E = Excellent*
- *? Indicates "Unknown"*
- *****Triploid variety – Not a good pollinator!***

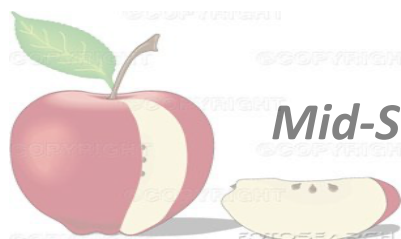


Early Apples

Name(s)	Time & Place of Origin	Size, Color, Taste & Texture	Qualities	Ripens
Yellow June	1845 Unknown origin	Medium, bright yellow, white flesh, tender, briskly subacid	Great for frying and apple sauce, tart	July
Early Harvest	1700's Long Island, NY	Medium, pale yellow skin, tender, fine-grained, juicy, cedar apple rust and scab resistant	Clear sauce apple with more sweet and tangy flavor than transparent	July/August
William's Favorite	1750's Massachusetts	Conical, medium to large, bright red, absolutely beautiful early apple, firm flesh, and easy to grow	Excellent multipurpose apple with good sweet flavor	July/August
Red Astrachan	1600's Russia	Medium, pale yellow w/ crimson streaks, sometimes completely red, flesh is juicy, tart & crisp	Good flavor, white flesh with red streaks	August

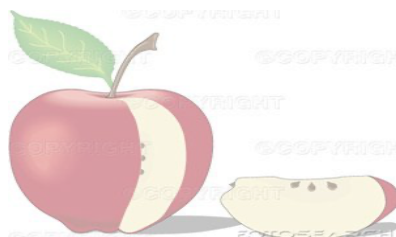


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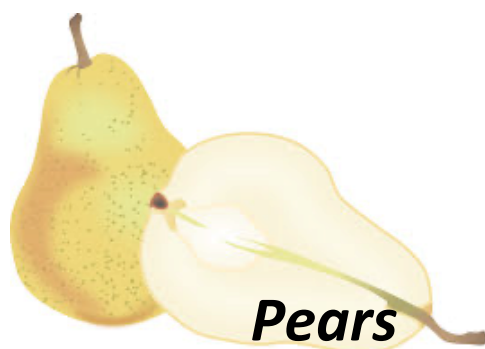
Mid-Season Apples

Name(s)	Time & Place of Origin	Size, Color, Taste & Texture	Qualities	Ripens
American Summer Pearmain	1700's Eastern U.S.	Medium, round, yellowish-green with orange-red stripes, yellow flesh	Very tender and juicy, sweet with refreshing mild tartness, aromatic, good for fresh eating, cooking and drying	August/September
McIntosh	1820's Ontario, Canada	Beautiful, medium-sized, glossy, oblate dark red apple with white flesh	Famous northern apple with excellent flavor for fresh eating and sauce	September
Crimson Crisp G202 (Dwarf)	1995 United States	Small to medium, very bright mid-range red over yellow. Extremely crisp, sweet/sharp flavor	Approx. 10 feet tall tree with good cold hardiness, resistance to fire blight, good in storage	September
Wolf River	1856 Wisconsin Found along the banks of the Wolf River	Very large, irregular shape, greenish-yellow with splashes and stripes of red	Prized for outstanding applesauce and apple butter	September/ October
Pumpkin Sweet	1800's Connecticut	Yellow skin marbled with greenish-yellow and a brown flush. Sweet, non-acid flesh, crisp and juicy	Prized for baking, good for canning and eating	September
Smokehouse	Lancaster, Pennsylvania	Large, flattish shape, yellow flushed and striped red. Crisp flesh, yellowish, moderately fine-grained	Fresh cider flavor, good quality cooking, eating and baking, keeps well	September/ October
Esopus Spitzenburg	Mid-1700's New York, Thomas Jefferson's favorite apple	Small to medium round/conical, greenish-red striped skin, grows easily but is difficult to grow clean fruit because of disease susceptibility, But well worth it!	Best tasting apple, white fine texture flesh, best dessert apple/great pie apple, keeps shape	September/ October





Name(s)	Time & Place of Origin	Size, Color, Taste & Texture	Qualities	Ripens
American Golden Russet (Bullock Pippin, Rusty Coat)	1836 New Jersey	Medium uniform, gold russet apple, sweet and acidic	Late ripening, easy to grow, great cider and pie apple	October
Virginia Beauty	1810 Zach Safewright, of the Piper's Gap Community of Carroll County, VA	Medium to large, conical, smooth, dark red or purplish skin, fine-grained and tender flesh	Classic mountain-eating apple, mellow sweet floral flavor, and a fine pie apple	October
Granny Thompson (formerly known as Golden Pippin)	100 year old seedling, Abe Thompson's residence Pineola, NC	Large, golden, with scattered red spots. Sweet complex flavor	Crisp texture, great pie, and sauce apple	October
Grimes Golden	1700's Brooks County, WV	Medium to large, round to oblong, yellow skin, very sweet, aromatic, tender, crisp, juicy, yellowish-orange flesh	Good all-purpose dessert and cooking apple, crisp and sweet, good keeper	October
**Mammoth Blacktwig	1800's VA, TN, AK	Medium to large, skin green with deep red several stripes, flesh is white, almost yellow, firm, juicy, and mildly subacid	Fresh eating, cooking, juicing, disease resistant, good keeper	October
Buckeye Beauty	1913 Calia County, Ohio	Medium, roundish conical, bright yellow, occasionally blushed red. Pale yellow flesh, crisp, juicy, mild subacid with hints of pineapple taste	Good fresh eating, cooking and stores well.	October
Gold Rush	1980's Perdue Research Farm (Parents are Golden Delicious & Red Rome)	Medium, yellow with a round shape, smooth skin, and fine-textured flesh	Dessert apple, sweet but complex flavor, good for fresh eating, pies, and cider, bears young and heavily, high disease resistant, very easy to grow, and stores well	October
Royal Limbertwig	Early 1800's Northwestern NC, eastern TN, southwest VA, southeast KY	Medium-large, yellow with some red, fine-grained, juicy, tender, mildly subacid	Excellent for fresh eating, apple butter, baking, and cider	October
Sheepnose	Early 1700's Connecticut	Medium-large, oblong, smooth, thick skin, yellowish covered in red wash broken stripes, maturing to deep dark reddish black. Pale green white flesh, coarse grained, firm. Juicy, sweet-sharp, aromatic.	Excellent fresh-picked taste. Makes excellent desserts and apple sauce, good sliced and dried.	October
**Newtown Pippin	1666, Newtown, New York, popularized by Thomas Jefferson in Virginia in the early 1800's	Large apple, yellow with hints of pink at the stem end, yellowish flesh is firm, crisp, and very aromatic	Complex, sweet flavor, excellent fresh eating apple, and a very good pie apple	October



In the Fall of 2006, we searched Avery County for Historical Apples. In the process, we ran upon some old-fashioned pears. We were able to secure a variety called **Seckel pear**, or locally known as the **Honey pear**. Thomas Jefferson wrote of this pear extensively in his writings.

While many pear varieties are self-pollinating, all pears will benefit from planting two different varieties together. Plant the European varieties together and Asian varieties together. Asian pears bloom earlier than the European pears. The trees available are grafted on to standard rootstock, should reach 15-20 feet in height and need to be planted a minimum of 15 feet apart. These pear trees are 5/8 inch in diameter and will arrive 4-5 feet tall.

Name(s)	Time & Place of Origin	Size, Color, Taste & Texture	Qualities	Ripens
Seckel (Honey Pear)	<i>Heirloom pear from France, first grown at Monticello</i>	<i>Small, reddish-brown skin, very sweet, juicy, aromatic dessert pear for fresh eating</i>	<i>Self-pollinating tolerant of fire blight, fresh eating, but not a good keeper</i>	<i>Late September</i>
Bell	<i>Kearneysville, WV USDA-ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Station</i>	<i>Yellow with an attractive splash of red, ranked highest in flavor intensity, flavor balance and juiciness.</i>	<i>Vigorous, fire blight resistant</i>	<i>September</i>
Yoinashi™ (Asian)	<i>A tradename of Fowler Nurseries, Inc., Newcastle, CA</i>	<i>Large, orange-brown, russeted finish, sweet, crisp, richly aromatic fruit</i>	<i>Fire blight resistant, stores well</i>	<i>Mid-Late September</i>
Hosui (Asian)	<i>Japan</i>	<i>Solid russet with pronounced lenticels. Mildly flavored, sweet and juicy.</i>	<i>Heat tolerant, self-pollinating, great for fresh eating</i>	<i>Late August</i>

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Blueberries, of course, do very well in our area. Our acidic soils are their natural home. However, care should be taken to soil sample if bushes are to be planted in a yard or garden, where lime has been applied, and pH may have been raised significantly.

Blueberries are not very good self-pollinators. They will produce much better if two or more varieties are planted together.

Plants should be spaced at least 5 feet apart and fertilized only lightly for the first 2-3 years. Plants will take 3-5 years to begin producing large yields. Pick berries off the first three years to allow the bush to grow. All varieties (except Northland, 3-4') offered here will reach 4-6 feet at maturity. More details are available in the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service publications.

All these varieties have may eventually produce 10 pounds or more per bush.

<i>Name(s)</i>	<i>Growth Habit</i>	<i>Size, Color, Taste & Texture</i>	<i>Qualities</i>	<i>Ripens</i>
Blue Crop	<i>Upright vigorous, productive bush, very cold hardy and drought tolerant</i>	<i>Large-medium, firm berry, good flavor, tart, and loose fruit clusters</i>	<i>Winter hardy, excellent for freezing</i>	<i>July</i>
Blue Gold	<i>Grows compact, spreading somewhat, 4'-6', highly productive & cold hardy</i>	<i>Medium size, sweet berries, large clusters</i>	<i>Ripens mid-season; most berries ripen at same time</i>	<i>July</i>
Patriot	<i>Upright-spreading growth habit with good ornamental and cold hardiness</i>	<i>Medium to large fruit in tight clusters; Patriot can tolerate wetter soil sites</i>	<i>Ripens in early to mid-season; allow to ripen for a few weeks before picking</i>	<i>July</i>
Northland	<i>Semi-dwarf (4'), compact shape, very cold hardy</i>	<i>Medium, light blueberries, very flavorful, similar to wild blueberries</i>	<i>Vigorous-producing, attractive foliage</i>	<i>July/August</i>
Jersey	<i>Upright vigorous growth and very cold hardy</i>	<i>Medium to large, strongly flavored berry and long loose clusters</i>	<i>Ripens late in season and picked out for its intense flavor</i>	<i>August and September</i>



Strawberries

Strawberry plants are best grown in a matted row type planting. This requires planting them approximately 18-24 inches apart, in rows at least three feet apart. In our area, full fruit production is completed the second year. **After the third year, it is recommended that the strawberry patch be re-planted. Strawberry plants are self-pollinating and therefore do not require multiple varieties.**

Successful strawberry production requires close attention to planting, weeding, fertilization, and **winter mulching is most important.** Recommendations are all available in the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service publications.

Name(s)	Traits	Size, Color, Taste & Texture	Qualities	Ripens
Earliglow	<i>A wonderful heirloom flavor is this variety's trademark, best early-season variety around, and excellent for fresh eating and freezing</i>	<i>Uniform color, tough glossy skin, firm flesh, medium size (size tends to decrease as the season progresses), and excellent frozen</i>	<i>Good resistance to red stele root rot and intermediate resistance to Verticillium wilt</i>	<i>June</i>
Jewel	<i>Grows well in different locations and moderate winter hardiness</i>	<i>#1 mid-season variety, with consistent productivity, and excellent freezer</i>	<i>Firm, sweet-flavored berries</i>	<i>Late June-July</i>
Albion	<i>A great ever-bearing berry (often bears fruit 12-14 weeks after planting)</i>	<i>Large to VL, very firm, conical berries</i>	<i>Excellent flavor for an ever-bearing variety</i>	<i>June - August</i>

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Raspberries and Blackberries

Raspberries and Blackberries should both be planted in rows approximately 4 feet apart. The spacing between plants and the need for trellising depends upon the variety chosen. **These berries are self-pollinating and, therefore, do not require multiple varieties.** All these raspberries can be grown for home garden use with little, if any, trellising if managed properly. Ask your County Agent.

Due to many naturally occurring brambles in our area, disease problems are common in domestic plantings but can be controlled effectively. Details regarding planting and managing raspberries and blackberries are available in the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service publications.

<i>Name(s)</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Size, Color, Taste & Texture</i>	<i>Qualities</i>	<i>Ripens</i>
Nova	<i>Summer bearing Red Raspberry</i>	<i>Medium to large berry, firm bright red with superb flavor</i>	<i>Nearly thornless, vigorous with upright habit</i>	<i>July</i>
Prelude	<i>Everbearing Red Raspberry is advertised as an excellent raspberry with both a spring and fall crop</i>	<i>Medium to large roundish berries, excellent sweet flavor, and good freezer</i>	<i>One of the earliest red raspberries to ripen in June, followed by another crop in August thru September</i>	<i>June and August</i>
Jewel	<i>Black Raspberry</i>	<i>Glossy black, large size, with a rich raspberry flavor</i>	<i>Excellent for jams and jellies, very popular variety, excellent yields of berries on winter hardy canes</i>	<i>July</i>
Chester	<i>Thornless Blackberry</i>	<i>Large, very flavorful, an excellent quality fruit</i>	<i>Semi-erect thornless canes, thornless blackberries, needs sheltered from cold winter winds</i>	<i>August</i>





Grapes

Grapes do very well in our area and are a traditional favorite. Grapes are considered somewhat self-fruiting **but will do better when planted in pairs of different varieties.**

Grapes do take some work with trellising, regular fertilizing, and annual pruning. Each grapevine will produce a vine 20-40 feet long and will need to be set in rows at least 6 feet apart. Our grape vines are two-year-old vines, graded #1, with an excellent root system. Details on grape production are available in the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service publications.

<i>Name(s)</i>	<i>Size, Color, Taste & Texture</i>	<i>Qualities</i>	<i>Ripens</i>
<i>Mars</i>	<i>Medium-large, deep blue, slip skin, seedless</i>	<i>Productive, medium clusters, holds well on vine, resistant to cracking</i>	<i>August</i>
<i>Niagara</i>	<i>Multipurpose grape, good for fresh eating, jelly, and juice</i>	<i>Seeded grape with outstanding hardiness, vigor, and disease resistance</i>	<i>Late September-October</i>
<i>Catawba</i>	<i>Medium-large, seedless, spicy flavored, purplish-red, slip-skin grape</i>	<i>Medium-sized, well-formed clusters, good for fresh eating, jams, jellies, and juice</i>	<i>September</i>



ELDERBERRIES

Elderberry, long known and utilized in Europe and America, makes great wine or jam and is prized for its medicinal qualities. This Sambucas nigra strain is very high in antioxidants. Plants are vigorous, producing shoots from the soil level in the first year that will bear fruit the following year. Large fruit clusters ripen in August each year. Though elderberry is self-fruitful, two different varieties will provide cross-pollination and more fruiting. We offer the Samyl and Samdal varieties. **Each order will consist of 1 samdal and 1 samyl elderberry plant.**

<i>Name(s)</i>	<i>Origin</i>	<i>Size, Color, Taste & Texture</i>	<i>Qualities</i>	<i>Ripens</i>
<i>Samdal/Samyl</i>	<i>Denmark</i>	<i>Large fruit clusters, dark purple-black</i>	<i>Very high in antioxidants, excellent medicinal qualities</i>	<i>August</i>



Asparagus

Asparagus does well in our area. The asparagus comes as one-year-old, large graded crowns. Asparagus needs to be spaced in shallow trenches, approximately every 18 inches, in rows 3-4 feet apart. They require 2-3 years to begin producing fully.

<i>Name(s)</i>	<i>Traits</i>		
Millennium Asparagus	<i>Excellent yield</i>	<i>Great taste, large, tight-tipped, uniform spears</i>	<i>Grows well in all soil types, tolerates cooler springs & cold winters</i>



HORSERADISH

This Big Top strain is an excellent vigorous producing horseradish, large, and has wide adaptability. An added plus is the resistance to foliage diseases. A few roots will last a lifetime. Plant at 45 degree angle with flat end facing up 1" below soil surface.

<i>Name(s)</i>	<i>Traits</i>		
Big Top Horseradish	<i>Excellent yield</i>	<i>This long-lived perennial herb can be used to spice up mustard, dressings, cocktail sauce, and other culinary uses.</i>	<i>Thriving in full sun to light shade, horseradish will grow in just about any soil, as long as the soil is not water-saturated.</i>

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Find your local center at: <https://avery.ces.ncsu.edu/>

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