

2023 Orchards



Chief Plenty Coups' Orchard: **Duchess** and **Wealthy** apples were grafted from the orchard near Pyror, MT, planted by Chief Plenty Coups in 1903 on his families farm and ranch. The few remaining trees in this orchard are maintained by MT FWP at the Chief Plenty Coups state park and a portion of the sales go towards supporting their efforts.

Bitterroot Valley: The home of Montana's apple boom, in the early 1900's the valley had over 10,000 acres of orchards. **Wolf River** trees come from historic St. Mary's Mission reputed to have been some of the first fruit trees planted in Montana in the 1840's or 50's. **Summerdale seedling** was grafted from a fence line tree in the Summerdale orchard district east of Corvallis MT.

Ruby and Madison Valley: Some of the first documented orchards in Montana sprung up around the gold mines of Virginia City in the mid 1860's. The Montana Heritage Orchard program has been collaborating with the Ruby Habitat Foundation to identify and preserve these heirloom cultivars. **Crimson Beauty, Martha Crabapple, and Pony Seedling** apples.



Montana Heritage Orchard Program 2023 Tree Sale

The Montana Heritage Orchard program provides heritage orchards across Montana with resources to preserve orchards, document Montana's fruit growing history and propagate heirloom and lost apple cultivars for backyard and commercial production.

To support the administration of this program and further preserve tree genetics, a wholesale tree propagation program was created.

To learn more about the program's history and participating orchards visit www.mtorchards.org.



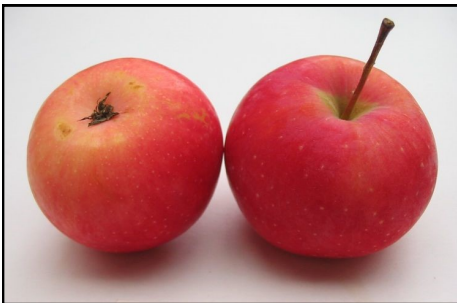
2023 Apple Trees

All trees are grafted onto dwarfing (B9) or semi-standard (B118) sized rootstock. Dwarf trees require support and grow to be ~8' tall. Semi-standard trees will grow to ~16'. Cold hardy to Zones 3 and 4, all trees in this program have been selected for their ability to withstand Montana's rugged conditions.



Summerdale Seedling
(‘Wealthy x McIntosh’)

Summerdale Seedling This cross between two popular heirloom cultivars was found in a fence line in the Old Summerdale Orchard district in the Bitterroot valley. Soon after the MT heritage orchard program propagated this apple, the original tree was destroyed. The flavor and texture is similar to McIntosh, but this apple ripens a bit earlier in the season. Excellent flavor for fresh eating or cider.



Ruby Valley Martha Crab Apple

Martha Crab A cross between ‘Duchess’ and Manchurian crabapple, ‘Martha’ is one of the several cold-hardy apples introduced by Peter Gideon (Minnesota) in the late 1800’s. This large crab apple has a thin skin that radiates the warmth of the summer sun. The flesh is firm, crisp, and juicy. Apples can be eaten fresh, or used for cooking and cider. The tree produces heavy crops and tends to bear fruit every other year. Moderately susceptible to fire blight.



CPC-Duchess



Pony Seedling



Crimson Beauty

Chief Plenty Coups - Duchess and Wealthy These trees originated from ‘Duchess of Oldenburg’ and ‘Wealthy’ trees planted by Chief Plenty Coups in 1903 at his home and farmstead near Pryor, MT. ‘Duchess of Oldenburg’ dates back to the 1700’s in Russia. It is extremely cold hardy and has many popular offspring including ‘Wealthy’, ‘Hazen’, ‘Honeycrisp’, and ‘Northern Spy’.

Pony Seedling This large green apple with red stripes offers surprising flavor. Appears to be a descendant of ‘Duchess’ and the parentage will be known this spring. Grown from a seed collected off of an old homestead tree in Pony, MT.

Crimson Beauty From a Canadian cross in the 1880’s with ‘Duchess’ in its parentage. Sold as ‘Early Bird Red’ by Stark’s nursery. One of the earliest ripening apples. The medium-size, cherry-red fruits have tender, aromatic, red-tinged flesh. They’re best eaten fresh off the tree as the fruit bruises easily and doesn’t store well. A rare heirloom in Colorado and Montana.

Wolf River First planted in Wisconsin in the 1850’s. This cross between ‘Alexander’ and ‘Westfield-Seek-No-Further’ produces very large cooking apples. Resistant to scab and moderately susceptible to fire blight.



Wolf River