

People differ in their appreciation of apple characteristics (especially in our household) Therefore in honor of diversity, we have strayed from some of the existing rating systems and attempted objectivity. This Chart is as objective as we could make it. For example, Macintosh has an unfortunate stereotype as a poor pie apple. In the early season, the taste is very tart, the texture is very hard and therefore these apples make a tart firm fruit pie. In the late season, the taste is sweet, aromatic and more complex but not very firm. In the late season the pie is sweet, juicy and slightly firm. Usually, if Macintosh are too old, or not stored well (in the refrigerator) they make a pie that is more like apple sauce.

| Variety | Approximate Harvest date | Early Season Flavor | Late Season Flavor | Early Season Texture (assuming appropriate storage in refrigerator) | Late Season Texture (assuming appropriate storage in refrigerator) | Comments (Most apples can be used for eating and for pies. This is for guidance only!) |
|------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|--|---|---|
| Jersey Mac | August 1 | Tart | Sweet | Firm | Soft. Does not store well | Will brown readily when cut |
| Paulared | August 20 | Tart | Sweet | Firm | Firm. Stores well | Good for early tart pies. |
| Gravenstein | August 20 | Slightly Tart | Sweet | Firm and juicy | Somewhat firm. Stores moderately well | Juicy and versatile |
| Gala | September 1 | Sweet | Sweet | Very Firm | Somewhat firm. Stores well | Often used for salads/desserts |
| McIntosh | September 1 | Slightly Tart | Sweet | Firm | Somewhat firm. Stores moderately well | When fully ripe, unsurpassed flavor Bruises easily so handle gently |
| Liberty | September 10 | Tart | Slightly Sweet | Firm | Firm. Stores moderately well | Very tart and crispy eating |
| Honey Crisp | September 15 | Sweet | Very Sweet | Firm and juicy | Firm. Stores well | Excellent crispy sweet eating apple |
| Spartan | September 15 | Slightly Tart | Sweet | Firm | Firm. Stores moderately well | Similar to Macintosh |
| Cortland | September 14 | Tart | Slightly Sweet | Very Firm | Somewhat firm. Stores well | Flesh does not brown. Great for salads. Common tart pie apple |
| Macoun | September 20 | Tart Start Sweet finish | Sweet | Crispy and firm (Some call it "the potato chip apple") | Soft. Does not store well | Excellent crispy tart/sweet eating apple. |
| Jonagold | September 25 | Mild tart | Sweet | Firm and juicy | Somewhat firm. Stores moderately well | Juicy and uniquely flavored |
| Golden Delicious | October 1 | Slightly tart | Sweet | Firm | Firm. Stores well | Commonly used for sweeter tasting pies |
| Red Delicious | October 1 | Sweet | Sweet | Firm | Firm. Stores well | Excellent eating apple when picked fresh. |

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| Northern Spy | October 1 | Slightly Tart | Sweet | Firm | Somewhat firm. Stores well | Mild tart apple for eating and pies. Bruises easily so handle gently. Old time favorite for pies and winter storage. |
| Idared | October 1 | Tart | Slightly tart | Very Firm | Firm. Stores well Flavor improves in storage | Great for holiday/winter baking. |
| Empire | October 1 | Slightly Tart | Sweet | Firm | Firm. Stores moderately well | Early season great eating. <u>After storage</u> , best for cooking only. Our family favorite for sauce. |
| Rome Beauty | October 10 | Tart | Mild flavor | Extremely firm | Very hard. Stores very well. | Good cooking apple to mix with other varieties. |
| Crispin (Mutsu) | October 12 | Mild Tart when color is green | Mild sweet when turning yellow | Very Firm | Very Firm. Stores very well | Excellent juicy eating and outstanding mild tart flavor for pies |
| Granny Smith | October 20 | Tart | Mild tart | Extremely firm | Very Firm. Stores very well | Very tart for eating and pies |
| Fuji | October 20 | Sweet | Sweet | Very Firm | Very Firm. Stores very well | Excellent crunchy sweet eating apple. We have made sweet Fuji applesauce! Cook longer with no sweetener needed. |