

Apple Trees

Info Sheet

Yes, you **can** grow apples in Florida! You can enjoy varieties that produce tasty, early summer fruit that rivals northern favorites.

PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS

For best production you should plant an Anna and a Golden Dorsett together. If "Mother Nature" does not cooperate, and they do not bloom at the same time, they will bear fruit nevertheless. You should prepare the soil by adding 1 part organic matter--such as coconut fiber or Rockledge Gardens planting mix--to 2 parts existing soil. Use this mix to back fill the hole. Add **Espoma Bio-tone Starter** when planting for health root growth. The following are some different varieties with a description to help with your selection.

Anna is the most popular variety in Brevard. The fruit is a red blush covering almost half of the greenish skin. The size is that of a normal apple. It bears fruit in 2-4 years, and ripens between June and July. Plant in well-drained soil. Anna is pollinated by Golden Dorsett or Tropic Sweet. Anna requires a minimum of 50-150 chill hours.

Golden Dorsett develops a pinkish blush on a yellow skin. The fruit is small but the trees are good pollinators. The taste of the Golden Dorsett is close to that of the Golden Delicious. The minimum chill requirement is 50-150 hours.

Tropic Sweet is one of the newest varieties. It develops a reddish blush on a green skin. It is very sweet, even in its earliest stages of ripeness. Tropic Sweet requires a minimum of 50-150 hours chill time.

Ein Shemer produces fruit up to 2 3/4 inches in diameter. The fruit is rounded, yellow and has a sweet taste. The minimum chill requirement is 150-300 hours.

CHILL HOURS

All apples for Brevard require low-chill hours. The apples offered by Rockledge Gardens require the minimum chill hours (as specified before) of temperatures below 45 degrees to break bud dormancy. If the apple trees break bud too early and a frost comes later, they could lose the fruit for the year.

FERTILIZING

For the first 4 or 5 years, fertilize with two to four cups of **Espoma Plant-Tone** during March, June, & September. Only use organic fertilizer such as **Plant-Tone**. Do not use Weed 'n Feed near your tree! Spray with **Neptune's Harvest Liquid Seaweed** or **Fish** every other month for the first few years, then twice per year when mature.



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