

# Apples

## Info Sheet

### *Malus domestica*

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 two different apple varieties nearby for cross-pollination. 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, peat humus, or earthfood--to 2 parts existing soil. Use this mix to back fill the hole. Add **Espoma Tree-Tone** and **Rockledge Gardens Planting Mix** when planting. 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. It tastes like a Granny Smith when young and a Gala when mature. Plant in well-drained soil. Anna requires a minimum of about 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. It is like a Golden Delicious apple in taste and texture. The minimum chill requirement is about 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. It is

like a Jonathan apple in taste and crisp texture. Tropic Sweet requires a minimum of about 150 hours chill time.

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

### Chill Hour Requirement

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 harvest for the year.

### Fertilization

For the first 4 or 5 years, fertilize with two to eight cups of **Espoma Tree-Tone** or use **Sunniland 6-6-6** according to bag instructions during March, June, & September. Do not use weed 'n feeds near your tree! Spray with **Neptune's Harvest Liquid Fish & Seaweed** or **Maxicrop Liquid Seaweed** every other month for the first few years, then twice per year when mature.

# Rockledge Gardens

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