



DCs
FOR BEES

A SUB INITIATIVE OF HOST IN IRELAND

ORCHARD FACT SHEETS

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Discovery Apple is a very popular variety of apple for all amateur growers in Ireland. An early variety with fruit that is small to medium sized and shiny red with sweet-sharp taste. The Discovery Apple is a compact, trouble-free tree, suitable for the smaller garden.

Position: Crops best in full sun

Pick: August to mid-September

Keep: Does not keep for more than a week

Hardiness: Hardy

Pollination: Group 3

Uses: Eating apple; juicing



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Boskoop Apple is a dual purpose apple ideally used as a cooking apple, although suitable as an eating apple if fruit is left to mature on the tree. An excellent pollinator for other apple trees. Excellent fruiter with large round fruit.

Position: Full sun

Pick: Late season - mid to late October

Keep: keeps well especially when refrigerated

Hardiness: Hardy

Pollination: Group 3

Uses: Excellent for cooking (eating, if matured)



Katy Apple is one of the best early to mid-season apple varieties. It produces medium-sized, crisp apples with exceptionally juicy flesh. Good, slightly sharp flavour and very firm skin – good for packed lunches and liked by children. It is a very reliable, heavy cropper. The blossom is particularly attractive and long-lasting, making it an excellent pollinator.

Position: Full sun

Pick: Early September

Keep: only for a couple of weeks

Hardiness: Hardy

Pollination: Group 3

Uses: Eating apple; also for juice and cooking



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The **Conference Pear** is most reliable pear for Irish gardens, giving heavy, regular crops even in less than perfect conditions. A mid to late-season dessert pear, ready in late October. The fruit is long, juicy and sweet, with firm flesh and a good flavour. Also very good as a cooking pear. Pick slightly under-ripe, store in a cool, frost-free place, and bring indoors to ripen.

Position: Full sun

Pick: Late October, into November

Keep: If picked under-ripe, will keep until December

Hardiness: Hardy

Pollination: Self-fertile, but crops better with a pollination partner. Pollination Group 3

Uses: Eating, cooking



Victoria Plum is the most popular of all plums because it is a self-pollinator and also a reliable heavy cropper. Flesh is yellow-green and has great flavour. If you were to only grow one fruit tree, this is the one.

It is supremely reliable in Irish conditions, tolerating cold, damp, and partial shade. The fruit usefully ripens over several weeks. Excellent for cooking, bottling and jam but can be eaten as a dessert plum when fully ripe.

Position: Full sun or partial shade

Pick: From late August

Keep: 1-3 days; 2 weeks if refrigerated

Pollination: Self-fertile. Pollination Group 3

Uses: Cooking, preserving, eating.



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