
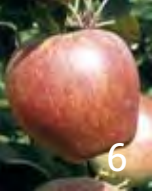


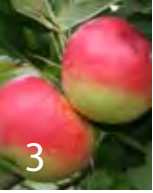





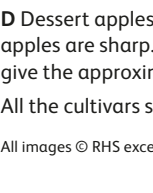


## Selecting your cultivar

With more than 3,000 cultivars grown in the UK, where do you start? Here are some sure-fire winners, all with the RHS Award of Garden Merit (AGM) for plants that perform.



	Cultivar	Type	Description	Harvest / use	
	1 'Discovery' (1949)	D	Excellent medium-sized fruit. Crisp and juicy with a hint of strawberry	Pick mid-Aug; use Aug–Sept. Best eaten fresh from tree	
	2 'James Grieve' (1890)	D/C	Crisp, juicy and tangy. Excellent flavour	Pick early Sept; use Sept–Oct	
	3 'Scrumptious' (1980)	D	Bright red fruit. Aromatic, crisp, sweet flavour	Pick early Sept and eat fresh from tree	
	4 'Charles Ross' (1890)	D/C	Sweet-flavoured eater which bakes well	Pick early Sept; use Oct–Dec	
	5 'Sunset' (1933)	D	Crisp, juicy, Cox-like flavour but easier to grow	Pick late Sept; use Oct–Dec	
	6 'Kidd's Orange Red' (1924)	D	Pillar-box red fruit. Rich, aromatic flavour	Pick early Oct; use Nov–Jan	
	7 'Lane's Prince Albert' (1840)	C	Good flavour. Cooks to a sharp lemon-coloured puree	Pick early Oct; use Dec–Mar	
	8 'Ashmead's Kernel' (1700)	D	Juicy, refreshing, aromatic flavour	Pick mid-Oct; use Dec–Feb	
	9 'Red Falstaff' (1980)	D	Refreshing, sweet, crisp and juicy	Pick mid-Oct; use Oct–Dec	
	10 'Dummellor's Seedling' (1819)	C	Good flavour. Cooks to a sharp cream-coloured puree	Pick mid-Oct; use Nov–Mar	

**KEY**  
**D** Dessert apples are sweet and juicy. Some are eaten fresh from the tree. Others will keep for longer. **C** Cooking apples are sharp. **D/C** Dual purpose apples can be used as eaters or for cooking. Dates in brackets after names give the approximate year the cultivar was bred.

All the cultivars shown above are available from Wisley Plant Centre ([rhs.org.uk/wisleyplantcentre](https://rhs.org.uk/wisleyplantcentre)).

All images © RHS except 'Charles Ross' © National Fruit Collection, Brogdale.

# Growing apple trees



Royal Horticultural Society

Sharing the best in Gardening

A pocket guide to growing the UK's most popular fruit

[rhs.org.uk/advice](https://rhs.org.uk/advice)

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## Six easy steps to perfect apple trees

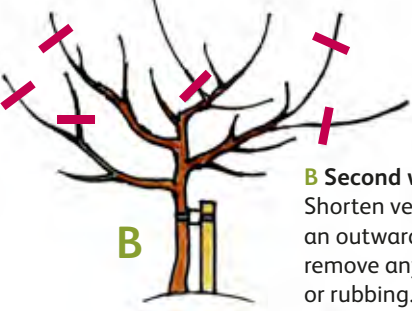
Growing fruit trees can seem complicated but follow these simple steps to successfully grow your own apples.



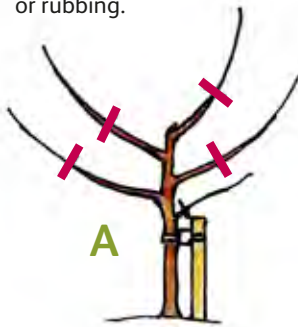
### 1 Choosing an apple to grow

That's one you like the taste of – not a supermarket apple, but something special

Thin out shoots where they're close together



**B Second winter onwards**  
Shorten very long shoots to an outward-facing bud and remove any which are crossing or rubbing.



**A First winter**  
Shorten the longest shoots by half to an outward-facing bud and remove any shoots from the lower trunk. (Pruning points are shown in red.)

### 6 Pruning your trees

Apples need pruning for a good shape and plenty of fruit. **Keep it simple** and buy a two-year-old open-centred bush. This will already be partly trained

### 2 Buy two different apples

Apples need pollination from another cultivar (variety) to fruit well. **Keep it simple** – choose apples from our selection on the back page, which will all pollinate each other

### 3 Select a rootstock

Apples are grafted on specially selected rootstocks which determine how big they get. For small trees (up to 3m) in pots or the open ground, choose apples on rootstock M26

### Don't stop there

Once you've succeeded with two, grow more. After all, in the UK alone, there are well over 3,000 cultivars to choose from

### 4 Buy bush trees

Apples can be grown as trees, bushes, cordons, fans, espaliers and step-overs. **Keep it simple** and grow a bush tree (a small tree on a short trunk)

### 5 Growing your trees

Plant your apples either in the ground in well-prepared soil (choose a sunny spot) or in containers with John Innes No. 3 potting compost



For more advice on growing and pruning apple trees, search on **apples** at [rhs.org.uk](https://www.rhs.org.uk)