

APPLE FACTS

- European settlers brought apple seeds to the New World in the early 1600's.
- Apples are the second most popular and important fruit grown in the United States (only behind oranges).
- Although all 50 states grow apples, only 35 grow them commercially.
- The following states are responsible for approximately 85 percent of the U.S. apple production: Washington, New York, Michigan, California, Pennsylvania and Virginia.
- New apples trees should be planted during the early spring (if needed).
- Apple trees take nearly five years to generate their first fruit.
- In the winter, apple limbs are pruned (or cut back) to encourage production.
- In the spring, apple trees blossom and are fertilized and irrigated.
- Bees are vital for helping pollinate apple blossoms, ensuring apple seed production, development and growth.
- Apples must contain at least 6 seeds to be viable and can contain up to 10.
- Apples begin to grow in the summer months (they need plenty of water and sunshine during this time).
- Apples are ready for picking (and eating) in the fall, approx. 100-140 days after blooming depending on the variety: Gala's early, Delicious next, Granny's later.
- Most apples are picked by hand.

DID YOU KNOW?

- *Archeologists have unearthed evidence revealing that humans have been enjoying apples since 6,500 B.C.*
- *Nearly 8,000 varieties of apples are grown through out the world (approximately 2,500 varieties are grown in the United States).*
- *Apples are very nutritious; they are high in fiber, vitamin C and calcium.*
- *It takes around 36 apples to create one gallon of apple cider and it takes 1 bushel of apples to make 3 gallons of juice.*
- *Apples are called "Nature's Toothbrush" because eating an apple naturally cleans your teeth: the fiber and texture rubs off the plaque and the acid cleans them.*

THE LEGEND OF JOHNNY APPLESEED

A popular story in American history is that of a man who traveled the country planting apple seeds. John Chapman, later memorialized as Johnny Appleseed, grew up on a farm in Massachusetts in the early 1800's.

It is told that John's favorite spot as a youth was the apple orchard and he took great pride in caring for his apples. After hearing that the West was deprived of apple trees, John decided to travel to the Northwest Territory -- now known as Illinois, Indiana and Michigan -- to plant apple seeds.

John planted apple seeds and sold apple trees to settlers in this vast area for nearly 50 years. He never married and never had children. John befriended many, including Native Americans. His work led to his nickname, Johnny Appleseed.