

APPLE FACTS & TRIVIA

There are more than 7,000 varieties of apples worldwide. About 2,500 varieties exist in the U.S.

Which country is the largest producer of apples?

- China produces approximately 42,426,578 tons of apples annually. The top-producing countries also include the U.S., Turkey, Poland, and Italy.

How long does an apple tree live?

- On average, an apple tree can live up to 60-80 years, provided it is well cared for. However, the world's oldest apple tree is in Russischen Kolonie, Germany. Its age is estimated to be around 189 years.

Did you know?

1. Americans eat more apples per capita than any other fruit. According to the USDA, the average American consumes approximately 16 pounds of fresh apples and 28 pounds of processed apples, such as juice, cider, or sauce.
2. The standard autumn party game, bobbing for apples, started as a Celtic New Year's tradition for trying to determine one's potential future mate. In ancient Greece, tossing an apple to a girl was a traditional proposal of marriage. Catching it was her acceptance.
3. Apples ripen up to 10 times faster at room temperature than when refrigerated.
4. *Wild Malus sieversii*—a species of wild apples that could be an ancestor of today's domesticated apples—is native to the Middle East and Central Asia. Researchers found these ancestral-like apple trees in Kazakhstan, Turkey, Armenia, and Georgia. These countries nearly surround the Mount Ararat region. The apple is thought to have been domesticated 4,000–10,000 years ago in the Tian Shan mountains and then

traveled along the Silk Road to Europe.

5. Crabapple trees are the only truly native apple trees in North America. Pilgrims planted the first U.S. apple trees in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.
6. Apple blossoms and seeds contain trace amounts of a compound that can be metabolized into cyanide, a highly toxic substance. While this isn't dangerous to humans, make sure your cats and dogs don't eat too many apple cores.

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