Apples

The apple is the pomaceous fruit of the apple tree, species Malus domestica in the rose family (Rosaceae) and is a perennial. It is one of the most widely cultivated tree fruits, and the most widely known of the many members of genus Malus that are used by humans.

Country Tons of Apples

Chile 1,390,000

China 27,507,000

France 1,800,000

India 2,001,400

Iran 2,660,000

Italy 2,072,500

Russia 2,211,000

Turkey 2,266,437

USA 4,237,730

The tree originated in Central Asia, where its wild ancestor is still found today. There are more than 7,500 known cultivars of apples, resulting in a range of desired characteristics. Cultivars vary in their yield and the ultimate size of the tree, even when grown on the same rootstock.

At least 55 million tons of apples were grown worldwide in 2005, with a value of about $10 billion. China produced about 35% of this total. The United States is the second-leading producer, with more than 7.5% of world production. Iran is third, followed by Turkey, Russia, Italy and India.

The apple forms a tree that is small and deciduous, reaching 3 to 12 meters (9.8 to 39 ft) tall, with a broad, often densely twiggy crown. The leaves are alternately arranged simple ovals 5 to 12 cm long and 3–6 centimeters (1.2–2.4 in) broad on a 2 to 5 centimeters (0.79 to 2.0 in) petiole with an acute tip, serrated margin and a slightly downy underside. Blossoms are produced in spring simultaneously with the budding of the leaves. The flowers are white with a pink tinge that gradually fades, five petaled, and 2.5 to 3.5 centimeters (0.98 to 1.4 in) in diameter. The fruit matures in autumn, and is typically 5 to 9 centimeters (2.0 to 3.5 in) diameter.

The proverb "An apple a day keeps the doctor away,” addressing the health effects of the fruit, dates from 19th century Wales.

**Oranges**

A great person once said, and I quote myself, “I think oranges taste great.”

An orange—specifically, the sweet orange—is the citrus Citrus × ​sinensis (syn. Citrus aurantium L. var. dulcis L., or Citrus aurantium Risso) and its fruit. The orange is a hybrid of ancient cultivated origin, possibly between pomelo (Citrus maxima) and mandarin (Citrus reticulata).[2] It is a small flowering tree growing to about 10 m tall with evergreen leaves, which are arranged alternately, of ovate shape with crenulate margins and 4–10 cm long. The orange fruit is a hesperidium, a type of berry.

Oranges originated in Southeast Asia. The fruit of Citrus sinensis is called sweet orange to distinguish it from Citrus aurantium, the bitter orange. The name is thought to ultimately derive from the Sanskrit[3] for the orange tree, with its final form developing after passing through numerous intermediate languages.

Like all citrus fruits, the orange is acidic, with a pH level of around 2.5-3; depending on the age, size and variety of the fruit. Although this is not, on average, as strong as the lemon, it is still quite acidic on the pH scale – as acidic as household vinegar.

Oranges can be grown, outdoors in warmer climates, and indoors in cooler climates. Oranges, like most citrus plants will not do well unless kept between 15.5°C - 29°C (60°F - 85°F). Orange trees grown from the seeds of a store bought fruit may not produce fruit, and any fruit that is produced may be different than the parent fruit, due to modern techniques of hybridization. To grow the seed of a store bought orange, one must not let the seed dry out (an approach used for many citrus plants). One method is to put the seed(s) between the halves of a damp paper towel until the seed germinates, and then plant it. Many just plant it straight into the soil making sure to water it with regularity. Oranges require a huge amount of water and the citrus industry in the Middle East is a contributing factor to the desiccation of the region.

In a number of languages, it is known as a "Chinese apple" (e.g. Dutch Sinaasappel, "China's apple").