

Apple

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This article is about the fruit. For the technology company, see Apple Inc.. For other uses, see Apple (disambiguation).

"Apple tree" redirects here. For other uses, see Apple tree (disambiguation).

Apple

A typical apple

Scientific classification

Kingdom: Plantae

(unranked): Angiosperms

(unranked): Eudicots

(unranked): Rosids

Order: Rosales

Family: Rosaceae

Subfamily: Maloideae or Spiraeoideae[1]

Tribe: Maleae

Genus: *Malus*

Species: *M. domestica*

Binomial name

Malus domestica

Borkh., 1803

The apple is the pomaceous fruit of the apple tree, species *Malus domestica* in the rose family (Rosaceae). 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. Apples grow on small, deciduous trees. The tree originated in Western Asia, where its wild ancestor, *Malus sieversii*, is still found today. Apples have been grown for thousands of years in Asia and Europe, and were brought to North America by European colonists. Apples have been present in the mythology and religions of many cultures, including Norse, Greek and Christian traditions. In 2010, the fruit's genome was decoded, leading to new understandings of disease control and selective breeding in apple production.

There are more than 7,500 known cultivars of apple

s, resulting in a range of desired characteristics. Different cultivars are bred for various tastes and uses, including in cooking, fresh eating and cider production. Domestic apples are generally propagated by grafting, although wild apples grow readily from seed. Trees are prone to a number of fungal, bacterial and pest problems, which can be controlled by a number of organic and non-organic means. About 69 million tonnes of apples were grown worldwide in 2010, and China produced almost half of this total. The United States is the second-leading producer, with more than 6% of world production. Turkey is third, followed by Italy, India and Poland. Apples are often eaten raw, but can also be found in many foods (especially desserts) and drinks. Many beneficial health effects have been found from eating apples; however, the seeds are slightly poisonous and two forms of allergies are seen to various proteins found in the fruit.