

How to Plant an Apple Tree from Seed and In Pot or Container



To plant an apple tree, you need to have either apple seeds or buy a plant at a nursery or garden center. Planting an apple tree requires thinking first about where to get it, knowing that it can adapt to small spaces, but also take a lot of space if you have enough land. For the smallest areas, you can opt for cording against a wall, espalier on a fixed structure, bush or tree with a long or short trunk.

It is also crucial to ensure that apple fertilization is assured since it is necessary for the transformation of flowers into fruit. If some varieties of apple trees are self-fertile, the majority will need to be close to another apple pollinator. These are either apple blossoms or compatible apple trees (compatibility are to be checked according to the varieties). If you live in an area with lots of gardens, it's a safe bet that pollination (provided by wind and bees) will be smooth. If you live in an isolated area, it is best to plant several compatible apple trees.



Buying Tips for Apple Plants

The apple trees you will find in the market consist of 2 parts:

- **The rootstock:** It is the lower part of the apple tree that controls the vigor and growth of the trunk
- **The scion:** It is the upper part of the plant that controls the type of fruit.

therefore it is necessary to choose your apple tree according to these two elements so that it complements your wishes. Moreover, do not forget to look at the points below:

1. Keep the plants well balanced that does not grow on one side
2. check if the plant has wounds and the sizes have healed well
3. Choose the size that fits best where you are going to plant it (cord, wind, structure, etc.)

4. Check the root system of the plant by removing the bucket: do not take those having too much root system.
5. For more choice of variety, prefer the nurseryman to the garden center

When to Plant the Apple Tree?

Generally, the apple plantation is done between **November and March**, except for periods of extreme cold that make the soil hard to work. It is good to follow the old proverb “At Sainte Catherine (November 25), all wood takes root”: the tree enjoys winter rains, which is ideal for the development of the young tree.

Planted too early or too late, the greedy vegetative system will slow root development. So if you bought a plant, put it in the ground as soon as possible.

Consider Before Plantation

Which apple tree to plant: In cold climates choose late-producing varieties. The varieties of dwarf or columnar apple trees are particularly well suited to growing in pots on a terrace.

Soil: well-drained, rich. Avoid stony and dry land or too wet.

Weather condition: hot and sunny situation. Sheltered from wind and cold.

Planting periods: late November to early March

Our Planting Tips and Maintenance Recommendations

- Plant several fruit trees in one space because of **cross-pollination**. Most of the apple trees need to be pollinated by another. So, plant different varieties for better pollination.
- Dig a hole approximately 60 cm deep and 80 cm wide. Loosen the soil. Mix some [crushed horn](#) with the soil at the bottom of the planting hole or fill the gap with a mixture of soil, compost, and composted manure.
- When planting, always have the collar or graft point above the ground(10-15 cm).
- After planting, tamp the soil at the foot of the tree then dot plentifully with fine
- Put in a wooden stake place to prevent the trunk from slanting with the wind.
- Reduce the size of the branches to one-third of their length to promote rooting. Always disinfect your pruner before pruning to avoid transmitting the disease to the tree. Allow bevel to flow the water into the roots.

- Apply a preventive treatment against apple worm (Codling moth) in early June. You can also attach cardboard strips around tree trunks or use pheromone traps to trap insects.

How to Grow a Potted Apple Tree?



Some dwarf and self-fertile apple species are ideal for growing in a pot on a terrace or balcony. This tutorial explains how to plant and maintain such a tree.

Equipment

- Pot bottom drilled at least minimum 40cm in height
- Organic amendment
- Planting Soil
- Clay balls
- Drainage equipment

Steps

1. Make a mixture of soil composed of organic compost
2. Put the root ball of the tree to soak in a tray of water
3. Deposit a layer of clay balls to facilitate drainage and prevent roots

4. Deposit a geotextile to avoid the rotting of the roots
5. Pour a quantity of soil, arrange the root ball in the center and fill the rest of the pot
6. Water to tamp the soil

How to Grow an Apple Tree From Seeds?



Dry the apple seeds

- Remove the seeds from the flesh of the apple fruit.
- Choose seeds of different varieties.
- Pass the pips in cold water.
- Drain.
- Dry them with a cloth.
- Place the apple seeds in a cloth letting the air through.
- Store them in a room where the temperature does not exceed 15 ° C for 2 or 3 days.
- Stir them occasionally and make sure insects do not attack them.

Put Seeds in Germination

- Prepare a container with wet sand.
- Lay several layers of seeds on the sand.
- Cover lightly with damp sand.
- Place the bin in a cool place for 2 or 3 months.

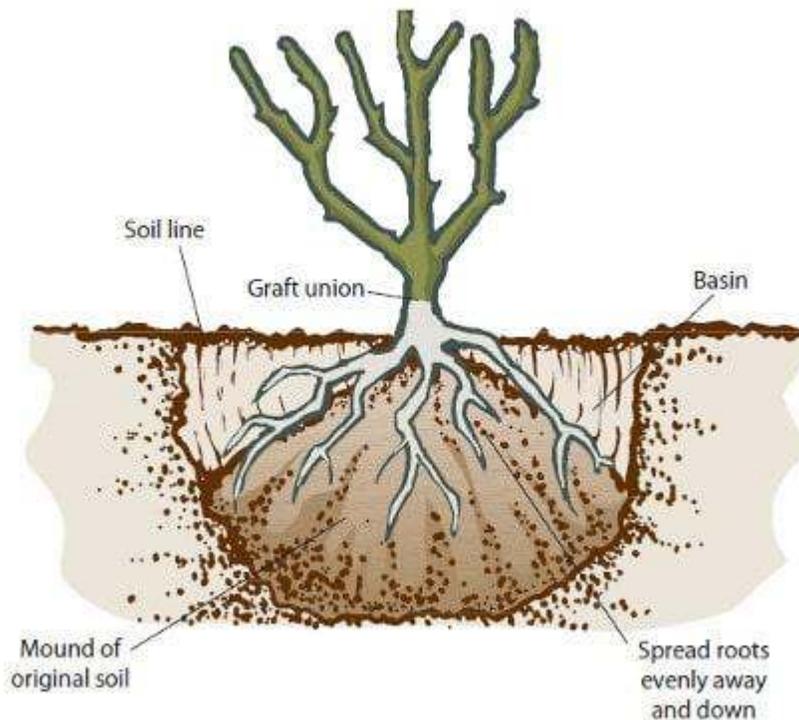
Spray the Sprouted Apple Seeds

In the spring, the apple seeds have begun to germinate, they must be transplanted

- Mix potting soil with garden soil.
- Fill them with pots.
- Drop some germinated seeds.
- Keep moderate humidity.
- Wait a year and transplant the plants to the desired location.

Good to know: It is also possible to plant sprouted apple seeds directly in the ground mixed with potting soil.

How to Plant an Apple Tree with Bare Roots?



In a nursery or garden center, you have to choose between an apple tree sold in a container or the pot and an apple tree with bare roots. Bare rooted trees are usually cheaper to purchase but must be planted in the next few days, unlike clump trees that can stay in their pots for several weeks. When buying, make sure that the roots are not dry, in which case it will be necessary to make praline.

Equipment

- Secateurs
- Spade
- Planting Soil
- Organic amendment (manure or fertilizer)

Steps

1. Dig a planting hole about 50 to 70 cm wide and 40 cm deep
2. Loosen the earth in the bottom of the hole and break the clods
3. Make the mixture “potting soil/garden soil/fertilizer.”
4. Trim the end of the big roots with pruning shears
5. Position the tree in the planting hole without burying the graft or collar eye
6. Fill the planting hole and shake the trunk slightly to slide the soil between the roots
7. Water copiously (10-12 liters) then tamp
8. Perform a light cut by cutting the inner stems and reducing the length of the carpenter’s branches

Apple Tree Maintenance

Fertilizer supply: Provide an organic fertilizer rich in nitrogen in each spring of the second year. In the fall, bury a fruit fertilizer to ensure good fruiting.

Summer Maintenance: Support overcrowded branches of apples. Give quantity amount of water during the first years of cultivation in dry weather.

Treatments

- **January:** get rid of lichen and moss trunks with a brush
- **February:** spray along the branches and the trunk a product of late winter against the overwintering forms of insects. At the end of the month, spray Bordeaux mixture as a preventive measure against the primary diseases.
- **March and April:** as soon as the buds swell, apply a complete treatment, followed by another application to bursting and when the flower petals fall.
- **October:** protect your apple trees from chance as soon as the leaves have fallen with copper oxychloride.

Apple Diseases and Pests

- **Apple Scab:** It is manifested by brown spots on the fruits and then on the leaves. If the contamination is important the fruits crackle.
- **Apple Canker:** Produces on the bark lesions that widen gradually and can cause the death of the upper part of the affected branch.
- **Oidium:** In spring it covers the leaves, floral peduncles, fruits and young shoots of a white-gray felting. The affected leaves become deformed and fall.
- **Monilia:** Causes concentric rot of fruit on the tree.

- **Codling Moth:** Apple worm, the caterpillar digs the fruit.

Other Resources For Prevent Diseases

- [Apple: Diseases and Symptoms](#)
- [Common Pests and Diseases of Apple](#)
- [Pest & Disease Control for Apple Trees](#)

About Author

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