

Antique Apple Varieties

Apples have a long and interesting history. Records indicate that as long as 20 centuries ago man understood the art of budding and grafting fruit trees. Apple orchards were planted in China and Egypt and all over Europe. The settlers brought with them apple seeds and planted their first apple crops in the New World. There are now hundreds of apple varieties in the United States and several thousand in the world.

Despite hundreds of apple varieties available, our country has become captivated with a handful of flawless, red, shiny apples. American appetites favor the Red and Golden Delicious, Jonathan, and Rome Beauty types. Many of the old orchards have been abandoned. Yet they were filled with many varieties that might not have been picture perfect but bursting with good flavor. However, a strong movement is developing to rescue many of the antique apple varieties from extinction.

Among the old varieties and their dates of origin or introduction are Baldwin (1740), Northwestern Greening (1872), Newtown Pippin (1756), Gravenstein (1824), Esopus Spitzenburg (1700's), Cox's Orange Pippin (1830), Fameuse Snowapple (1730), and others. Watch for them at your favorite orchard or grocers. These esteemed antiques treasured by our ancestors are being kept available by apple enthusiasts, thus perpetuating a bit of heritage.

From research by Lee Jackson, author of **Apples, Apples Everywhere—Favorite Recipes From America's Orchards**, an apple cookbook that includes profiles of

orchards growing many of the old favorites. Available from Images Unlimited Publishing, P.O. Box 305 Dept.GT, Maryville, MO 64468 for \$14.95, at your local bookstore, or online at www.imagesunlimitedpub.com