



GOLDEN DELICIOUS

Origin	West Virginia, USA, 1890. Introduced in 1914.
Parentage	Unknown; circumstantial evidence suggests Grimes Golden x Golden Reinette.
Availability	Early October to early May.
Source	Widely available, several strains.
Quality	Rich, sweet, aromatic; crisp, juicy, moderately firm; distinctive. Yields high quality juice and cooks well.

Fruit:

Size	Medium to large under its better climates; medium to smaller under cooler climates and when under-thinned.
Surface	Smooth to partly russeted depending on climate, strain, season and spray management; bruises show, are unsightly and must be avoided throughout the harvest to market sequence.
Ground Colour	Greenish to rich golden yellow depending on climate, culture, season and maturity.
Over Colour	None in warmer climates; grown in cooler climates Golden Delicious may have a pinkish blushed cheek. See comments section below.
Flesh Colour	Cream, may vary somewhat depending on maturity and growing conditions from a greenish light yellow to rich, almost golden, cream.

Harvest Season	Early October, usually after Red Delicious.
Storage	Cold store Octable to January, under Controlled Atmosphere and low O ₂ to June or later. Needs high humidity but a slight loss of moisture before handling will reduce its tendency to bruise and blemish.
Strains	Three types: low russeting (one from USA, one from Europe), spur and pink blushed. Some of the spur strains are more prone to russet than the standard.

Tree:

Vigour	Medium. Spur type strains have low vigour.
Habit	Upright, spurry.
Precocity	Bears early and heavily, soon becoming strongly biennial if crop load is not accurately managed.
Fruit Placement	Primarily on spurs.
Bloom Period	Moderately late.
Pollination	Readily pollinated by other diploids with overlapping blossom periods. It is an excellent pollen donor.
Nutrition	Needs good nutrition; high Nitrogen can lead to greenish fruit (preferred by some markets) and to late maturity.
Crop	One of the most productive apple cultivars, especially when kept in annual bearing.
Synchrony	There is some variation in maturity among the fruits.
Adaptation	Widely grown and fairly hardy; best adapted to the middle of the apple range; likes a warm autumn; dislikes humid weather, especially in the post-blossom period.
Disease Reaction	Moderately resistant to scab on the fruit, powdery mildew, European canker. Slightly susceptible to moldy core. Very susceptible to cedar apple rust but not juniper rust.
Insect Reaction	Somewhat susceptible to mites. An apple maggot favourite, prone to stinging bug injury.
Rootstock	Because of its type of tree - medium size, somewhat spurry, Golden Delicious has less need for size controlling rootstock.

Comments:

Golden Delicious is one of the most widely planted apple cultivars of the world. It exhibits high quality for eating fresh, processing, for juice and is very productive. It can be grown successfully in Nova Scotia, always recognizing that Nova Scotia is located toward the fringe of the Golden Delicious range. Market interest in medium sizes and a lightly pink blushed strain has interesting implications for Nova Scotia.