



ALL ABOUT APPLES

The Pacific Northwest prepares for a banner harvest of its favorite fruit this fall

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It was the gift of a golden apple that launched the thousand ships that sailed for Troy. In Old Norse tales, apples were offered to the gods in exchange for everlasting youthfulness. William Tell split one once, in a famous feat of fatherly marksmanship, and even Issac Newton felt entirely inspired the day he realized the apple didn't fall far from the tree.

We use them to express care or adoration (as in an apple for a teacher); but also as a taunt or a narcissistic jeer (“How do you like them

apples?”). And we've all heard that eating one per day keeps the doctor away, but just try telling that to Snow White, who knows firsthand how a single bad apple can spoil the bunch.

Across every threshold of humanity, we've carried with us the apple. From its birthplace in Central Asia, along every trade route, across every mountain and ocean and continent, this ubiquitous fruit has followed our lead, leaving its mark on our religions, our literature, our art, our language, and, most

especially, our pantries.

By the time it arrived in the Pacific Northwest — first with European explorers and then with overland pioneers — the apple had already been cultivated for thousands of years. Just enough practice, apparently, to land it in the place where it could finally be perfected.

Today, Northwest apples are prized the world over, and here in the Columbia-Pacific region, we're lucky to be just a stretch downriver from some of the best apple-growing country on Earth — particularly this

The oldest apple tree in the Pacific Northwest is in Vancouver, Washington. It will turn 190 years old this October.



Above: A lone apple tree overlooks Willapa Bay in Oysterville, Washington, on the Long Beach Peninsula.

Top: An organic Gala apple grown in the state of Washington, the leading commercial apple producer in the nation. This year, the Washington State Tree Fruit Association forecasts a harvest of 132.9 million standard 40-pound boxes of fresh crop apples — a harvest that's up 15 percent compared to 2015.