

RED DELICIOUS (also called Hawkeye Apple)

Originally, the Red Delicious was more golden with red stripes. As is so often repeated in the fruit industry, red sells, so farmers began pushing for red delicious varieties with deeper and deeper color. As the skin of an apple darkens, it also develops more bitter taste. There are many, many varieties of red delicious, so there is a range of properties. Not all Red Delicious are the same!

This variety of apple was a long time favorite worldwide for decades (now being replaced by Fuji and Gala) and became increasingly popular until the 1990s, when overproduction began to degrade the quality and when better storage and transportation techniques made other varieties more available. Nevertheless, it is still one of the most easily recognized apple cultivars, and is probably the source of the iconic bright red apple in visual media (such as *Disney's Sleeping Beauty*).

PLACE OF ORIGIN/YEAR: Peru, Iowa, 1895 by Jesse Hiatt

PARENTAGE: chance seedling, probably from Yellow Bellflower apples

DESCRIPTION: large in size, instantly recognizable, tall and wasp-waisted, has five knobs on blossom end

SKIN COLOR: deep rich red, skin is thick and bitter

FLESH TEXTURE: crisp, fine-grained, white- yellow flesh

FLAVOR: mildly sweet, somewhat tart, juicy

USES: looks great for a long time, so they are the favored choice for holiday centerpieces and wreaths

EATING: good for eating fresh & salads

BAKING: poor for baking

COOKING: this apple does not hold up well when cooked

SAUCE: fair base for apple sauce because of fine grained flesh and juiciness

HARVEST TIME: 11/8/07

SEASON: Early to mid season

STORAGE-ABILITY: they look great for a long time, but bruises easily