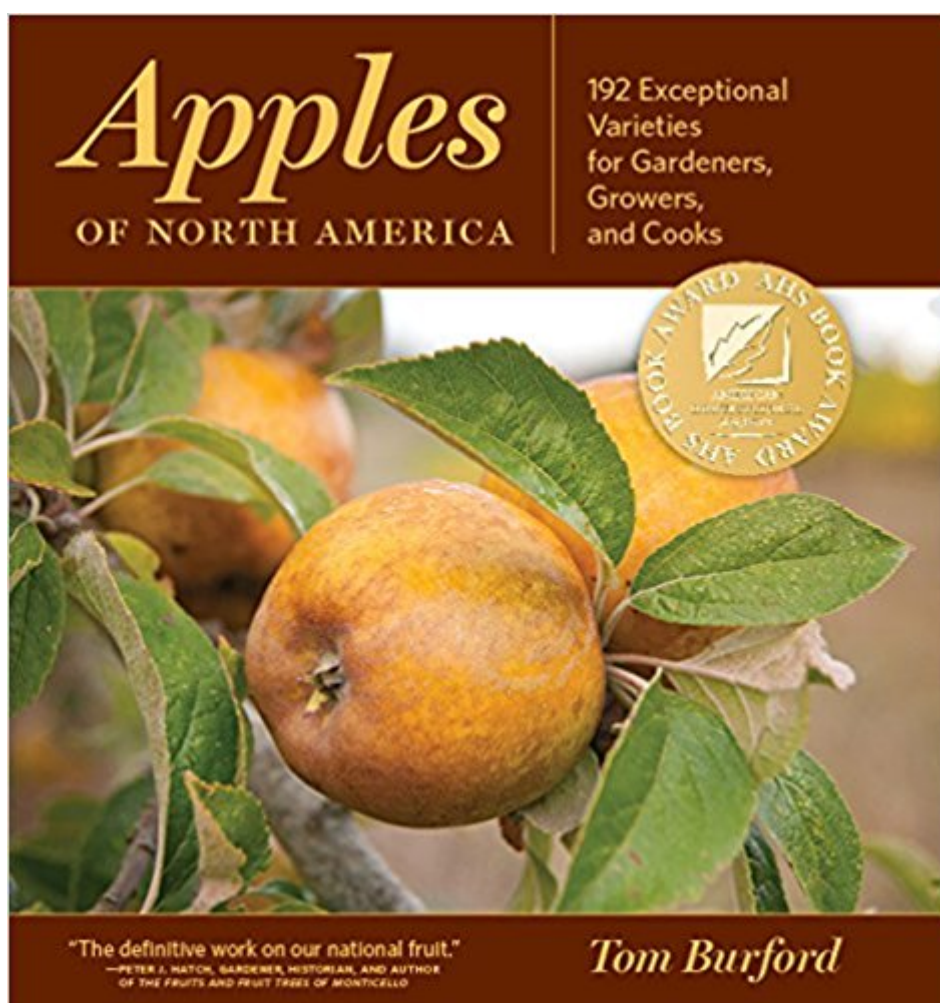


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# Apples Of North America: Exceptional Varieties For Gardeners, Growers, And Cooks



## Synopsis

American Horticulture Society Award Winner The apple is one of the most iconic fruits, traditionally picked on cool fall days and used in pies, crisps, and ciders. And there is a vast world of varieties that goes beyond the common grocery store offerings of Red Delicious and Granny Smith. With names like American Beauty, Carter's Blue, and Fallawater, and flavors ranging from sweet to tart, this treasure trove of unique apples is ripe for discovery. There is no better guide through this tasty world than Tom Burford, whose family has grown apples in the Blue Ridge Mountains since 1715. The book is brimming with beautiful portraits of heirloom and modern apples of merit, each accompanied by distinguishing characteristics and common uses. As the view broadens to the orchard, you will find information on planting, pruning, grafting, and more. The exploration of the apple culminates with an overview of the fruit's transformative capabilities when pressed, fermented, cooked, or dried. Beyond the polished and predictable grocery store display of Red Delicious and Granny Smith apples, a feast of beautiful and uniquely flavored North American varieties awaits the curious.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“The definitive work on our national fruit.”  
• Peter J. Hatch, *The Fruits and Fruit Trees of Monticello*  
“A lovely, browsable work for apple enthusiasts.”  
• Library Journal  
“The long-awaited masterwork by America's greatest apple expert, Tom Burford, is an invaluable resource for lovers of flavorful and historic apples.”

Los Angeles Times “A fascinating account of heirloom types.”  
Southern Living

“A guide for the beginner and a master class for the expert—a great harvest of wisdom.”  
• Roger B. Swain, author and former host of PBS’s The Victory Garden  
Tom Burford, fifth-generation apple grower, shines the spotlight on a selection of impressive but often overlooked North American apples. The captivating photographs will transport you from American Beauty to York—and all the sugary, spicy, sprightly apples in between. You’ll learn about varieties brought back from the edge of extinction, the apple Tom calls “the beauty queen of the russet apple world,” and a fruit with skin so deeply red that it earned the name Arkansas Black.

Written with heartfelt enthusiasm, the diverse stories behind these apples are matched only by their range of shapes and colors, textures and flavors. The book goes below the surface too. Whether you are planting a backyard orchard, experimenting with grafting, or considering a batch of apple butter, the information in the orchard primer will get you started. This start-to-finish celebration of the apple is as important as it is lovely.

One page to an Apple, each with a representative photo. You also get a paragraph of history for each, alternate names (a lot of them in some cases) and interior/exterior descriptions, season of ripening, storage quality, tree characteristics, disease resistance, and uses for the apple(s). No recipes for anything but you do get some tips in the Apple products section in the back. That’s one of several sections in the last part of the book telling you about planning and starting your orchard (it also mentions pruning and grafting. Most of that stuff- you’ll need/want a better book to really get you going. No sources listed to actually buy anything from. Two page bibliography, mostly history (there is a cider book by Ben Watson, also mentioned in the text) and three pages of of the apples, “recommended uses of apple varieties”, so you can search out Apple sauce, cider or whatever without having to wade through the whole book for apples of a type. I’d recommend getting at least this book and Rowan Jacobsen’s. “Apples of Uncommon Character” as a starting point for apple exploration.

Thank you Mr. Burford for sharing with us the benefit of your long history with, and obvious love of apples! Not only is this a great apple I.D. aid (focused on apples on this side of the Atlantic), with

great pictures and descriptions, but also gives excellent tidbits throughout about how certain apples have been used in this country in a time when people tended to be more knowledgeable about their homegrown foodstuffs. Mr Burford's family background in the Blue Ridge mountains seems to have provided a sanctuary of sorts for this kind of practical information (eg. which apple cultivars are best for drying, which are best for vinegar, which are best for pickling, etc.), information that might otherwise have been lost. As an apple lover and grower, this book goes on my top shelf!

A handsomely produced book with beautiful color illustrations of each apple variety but I found a lot of varieties missing, mostly old New England cultivars like Gravensteins or yellow transparents, It seems geared toward growers in the mid-Atlantic and southern states and not toward consumers and apple lovers (pomophiles) nationally. The information for growers may be useful although the terminology is sometimes obscure but I could have used a lot more discussion of the fruits themselves and their uses. Altogether a disappointment, especially because the production values are so high.

Fantastic! Researched and presented with love. The Apple varieties A to Z is wonderful. My only wish would be in those descriptions and pictures to also have a picture of the apple cut in half. Some apple fall farther from the tree than others so it would have been perfect if that added detail (the only one missing in this book!) could have been added.

Very interesting book about Apples with a lot of information that you normally don't get in these kind of books.

I'm in the middle of my "fall obsession" -- apples of all kinds. This book is great, with a page per apple, arranged alphabetically, and a section on growing apples in your backyard. Lovely photos, too. The descriptions are precise and a little lacking in passion (compare to Rowan Jacobsen's "Apples of Uncommon Character: Heirlooms, Modern Classics and Little-Known Wonders") -- but the two together make a wonderful complementary set.

Tom Burford who lives VA is a leading authority on propagation and growing apples. He has collected and simplified his vast knowledge and life experiences with heirloom and commonly known apples. He is a delight in person as well as a fine writer for the novice or veteran apple grower.

Without exception this is the best reference books on apple varieties that I have purchased in the last 20 years. Both the pictures and content are truly exceptional. This book clearly reveals Mr. Burford's passion on the subject of apples. If you have an interest in heirloom apples and how to establish an orchard then this book is one you need to have.

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