

GRAVENSTEIN

Gravenstein is a high-quality dual-purpose apple variety, originally from Europe, but well-established in North America. The flavor, both for eating fresh and (especially) for cooking is unusually good for such an early-season variety. Flesh is crisp, juicy, fine-grained, yellowish white.

Like most early-season apples Gravenstein does not keep that well but, usefully, the apples tend to ripen individually over the course of a couple of weeks so you are not faced with a overwhelming harvest to be processed at once. (This long ripening period is why Gravenstein is much grown now as a commercial variety, but is a plus for the home orchardist). Gravensteins have a distinctive flushed coloring, which begins in mid-August as a few streaks of red, and spreads to cover the whole apple by the end of the picking season in mid-September.



Uses

- Flavor quality - **Very good**
- Flavor style - **Sweet/Sharp**
- Good for eating **fresh, cooking, cider**
- Cooking result - **Keeps shape**
- Picking season - **Early**
- Keeping - **moderate**

Growing

- Cropping - **Good**
- Fertility – **Triploid** (infertile pollen)
- Flowering group - **1 to 2**
- Precocity - **Slow to come into bearing**
- Biennial tendency
- Fruit bearing – **partial tip, partial spur**
- Disease resistance - **Poor**
- Vigor – **Vigorous (T-3)**
- Chill requirement: only needs about **700 hours**

How to grow Gravenstein apple trees

Gravenstein is sometimes regarded as an unreliable or difficult variety - but part of this is likely to be caused by poor pollination. There are two pollination-related issues to be aware of when growing Gravenstein. Firstly it is a triploid variety, so it needs two separate compatible apple varieties nearby. Secondly it flowers very early in the season, when not many other apple varieties are in flower to pollinate it. Most pollination problems with Gravenstein can be resolved by making sure you have two other early-flowering apple trees (of different varieties) nearby. Gravenstein can flower over a long period and sometimes appears to have a second flush of blossoms later in the flowering season. So consider planting several good early/mid-season pollinators nearby - a crab-apple would be ideal. Gravenstein trees tend to be quite large and long-lived.

Pollination for Gravenstein

Gravenstein is in flowering group 1 and 2. It is a **triploid** variety and needs **TWO** different pollination partners nearby (traditionally Yellow Transparent and Golden Russet)

Historical details

Thought to have originated in Denmark where it is the national apple, or possibly northern Italy. Very old variety - 18th century or earlier.

