

ESOPUS SPITZENBURG

Chill Factor: **600-800 chill hours**

A medium to large apple, round-conic in shape, smooth-skinned and colored a brilliant red, approaching scarlet. In hot and humid regions, the color is not as pronounced. The skin is tough and covered with russet dots and inconspicuous stripes.

The yellow flesh is crisp, dense, fine-grained, and juicy, with a flavor that is rich, spicy and sprightly, yet sweet and ranks high in taste tests. It ripens unevenly beginning in late September and hangs on the tree until November. The flavor improves in storage.



Uses

Flavour quality - **Exceptional**

Flavour style - **Aromatic**

Good for eating fresh , cooking, juice

Picking season - **Late**

Use / keeping - **3 months or more**

Should be stored for at least a month before eating to develop flavor

Growing

Cropping – **Heavy, but biennial tendency**

Fertility - **self-infertile**

Flowering group - **4**

Triploid - **No**

Fruit bearing - **Spur-bearer**

Disease resistance - **Susceptible to fireblight, scab, canker and collar rot**

Vigor - **Average growth (T2)**

How to grow Spitzenburg apple trees

The main challenge with Esopus Spitzenburg is that it has poor disease resistance. The flavor is at its best in cooler climates, and like many heirloom varieties, Spitzenburg likes warm autumn days and cool autumn nights. It tends to bear biennially. The upright growing tree is moderate in vigor with olive-colored bark, and dull leaves, folded with irregular shallow serrations. It has a distinctively slender growth habit, with branches that have wide crotch angles and are long and drooping.

Pollination partners for Spitzenburg

Spitzenburg is in flowering group 4. It is **self-sterile** and needs a pollination partner nearby.

Historical details

ESOPUS SPITZENBURG originated (discovered) in Esopus, Ulster County, New York, in the latter part of the 18th century. It was one of Thomas Jefferson's favorite apples. He ordered 12 trees from William Prince's Flushing, Long Island, Nursery in 1790 to plant at Monticello. A likely parent of the Jonathan and is classified in the Baldwin group.

