Grow a Greener Garden

Garden and Landscape Plant Finder

Spitzenburg Apple

Malus 'Spitzenburg'



Spitzenburg Apple flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 20 feet

Spread: 15 feet

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 3a

Description:

A delicious, crisp, dessert apple that is rich tasting and juicy; medium to large size apples are orangey with russet spots; a semi-dwarf habit; remove 1/3 fruit while small to lessen load on branches and prune regularly; highly susceptible to disease

Edible Qualities

Spitzenburg Apple is a small tree that is typically grown for its edible qualities. It produces yellow round apples (which are botanically known as 'pomes') with a scarlet blush and yellow flesh which are usually ready for picking from early to mid fall. The apples have a sweet taste and a crisp texture.

The apples are most often used in the following ways:

- Fresh Eating
- Cooking
- Baking

Features & Attributes

Spitzenburg Apple is clothed in stunning clusters of fragrant white flowers along the branches in early spring before the leaves. It has dark green deciduous foliage. The pointy leaves turn yellow in fall. The fruits are showy yellow apples with a scarlet blush, which are carried in abundance from early to late fall. The fruit can be messy if allowed to drop on the lawn or walkways, and may require occasional clean-up.

This is a deciduous tree with a shapely form and gracefully arching branches. Its average texture blends into the landscape, but can be balanced by one or two finer or coarser trees or shrubs for an effective composition. This is a high maintenance plant that will require regular care and upkeep, and is best pruned in late winter once the threat of extreme cold has passed. It is a good choice for attracting birds and bees to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Messy
- Disease

Aside from its primary use as an edible, Spitzenburg Apple is sutiable for the following landscape applications;

- Accent
- General Garden Use
- Orchard/Edible Landscaping

Planting & Growing

Spitzenburg Apple will grow to be about 20 feet tall at maturity, with a spread of 15 feet. It has a low canopy with a typical clearance of 2 feet from the ground, and is suitable for planting under power lines. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for 50 years or more.

This tree is typically grown in a designated area of the yard because of its mature size and spread. It should only be grown in full sunlight. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone in winter to protect it in exposed locations or colder microclimates. This particular variety is an interspecific hybrid.