

# Northeastern U.S. cider varieties

## BITTERSWEETS

*In approximate order by ripening date in upstate New York*

**Ellis Bitter** – Midseason bloom, ripens early September, annual and productive, vigorous, short storage potential, should be pressed soon after harvest.

**Breakwell's Seedling** – Mid bloom, ripens early September, scab tolerant, annual, productive.

**White Jersey** – Mid bloom, ripens early September, productive but biennial, low vigor, precocious, short storage only, press soon after harvest.

**Hereford Redstreak** – Late bloom, ripens mid-September, productive and annual, low vigor, short storage, press soon after harvest.

**Somerset Redstreak** – Mid bloom, ripens late September, productive but biennial, vigorous.

**Stembridge Jersey** – Mid bloom, ripens late September, biennial, scab tolerant, vigorous.

**Geneva Tremlett's Bitter** – Mid bloom, ripens mid September, biennial but productive, low vigor spur-bearing type, Geneva strain not same as English Tremletts, but excellent for cider.

**Harry Master's Jersey** – Mid bloom, ripens late September, productive and annual, low-vigor tree adapts well to central axe form.

**Coat Jersey** – Mid bloom, ripens mid-October, biennial and scab susceptible, vigorous.

**Dabinett** – Late bloom, ripens mid-October, annual, low vigor, some winter damage in New York.

**Fillbarrel** – Early bloom, ripens mid-October, biennial and not productive, vigorous, blind wood.

**Brown Snout** – Late bloom, ripens mid-October, biennial but productive, moderate vigor.

**Yarlington Mill** – Mid bloom, ripens mid-October, biennial but productive, scab susceptible.

**Chisel Jersey** – Late bloom, ripens mid-October, biennial but productive, susceptible to fire blight.

**Binet Rouge** – Late bloom, ripens late October, biennial but very productive in the "on" year.

**Bedan des Parties** – Late bloom, ripens late October, biennial but productive, susceptible to fire blight.

## BITTERSHARPS

*Suitable for single variety ciders if desired*

**Stoke's Red** – Late bloom, ripens late

October, biennial and not productive, low vigor, scab tolerant.

**Kingston Black** – Late bloom, ripens late October, biennial and not very productive, vigorous.

**Porters Perfection** – Late bloom, ripens late October, annual and productive, trees heavily spurred but sprawling, fused double fruit, hangs well while ripening, scab tolerant, cold hardy.



COURTESY OF NEW YORK STATE FRUIT QUARTERLY

**Golden Russets.**

## AMERICAN & EUROPEAN HEIRLOOM VARIETIES

*Dual-purpose sharps*

**Bramley's Seedling** – Early bloom, ripens mid-September, annual and productive, scab resistant, triploid, nonbrowning, trees moderate vigor, fruit for cooking or cider.

**St. Edmund's Pippin** – Early bloom, ripens mid-September, tip-bearing, droopy low vigor tree, an early ripening russet, excellent dessert or cider, short storage potential.

**Egremont Russet** – Early bloom, ripens late September, annual and productive, moderate vigor, scab tolerant, rich flavor good for dessert or cider.

**Cox Orange Pippin** – Early bloom, ripens late September, annual and productive, prone to heat stress, scab and powdery mildew, popular dessert apple, adds rich aromas to ciders.

**Zabergau Reinette** – Mid bloom, ripens late September, annual and productive, large russet triploid apple, good for dessert or ciders, short storage and heavy drop if allowed to tree ripen.

**Margil (Reinette Musquee)** – Early bloom, ripens early October, annual and productive, small russet fruit with intense flavor, scab tolerant, moderate vigor.

**Ashmeads Kernal** – Early bloom, ripens mid-October, annual and productive, lightly russetted fruit triploid, excellent for dessert or cider, very aromatic.

**Calville Blanc** – Early to mid bloom, ripens mid-October, annual and productive, nonbrowning flesh excellent for cooking (pastries), excellent sharp for ciders, very scab susceptible.

**Roxbury Russet** – Early bloom, ripens mid-October, annual and productive, oldest named American variety, lightly russetted hard apples keep well, good for dessert or ciders.

**Golden Russet** – Early bloom, ripens late October, annual and productive, tip bearing, vigorous tree, heavily russetted fruit excellent

# GOOD FRUIT GROWER

for dessert or cider, high sugar and acidity.

**Northern Spy** – Mid bloom, ripens late October, biennial tendency, prone to preharvest drop, bitter pit and scab, dense flesh, good storage quality, excellent for dessert or ciders.

**Baldwin** – Mid bloom, ripens late October, biennial but productive, high sugar content, aromatic, good storage quality, excellent for dessert or ciders when fully ripe.

**Geneva Red (Redfield)** – Early bloom, ripens mid-October, annual and productive, medium size apple with pink flesh, high acidity with soft tannins, mostly used for preserves or ciders.

**Rhode Island Greening** – Early bloom, ripens late October, annual and productive, large fruit excellent for cooking and as a sharp for cider blends.

**Newtown (Albemarle) Pippin** – Early bloom, ripens late October, annual and productive, vigorous tree, fruit store well, excellent for dessert and as an aromatic sharp in ciders.

## MODERN SCAB-RESISTANT APPLE VARIETIES

*Mostly dual-purpose sharps*

**Pristine** – Mid bloom, ripens late August, annual and productive if thinned hard, pre-harvest drop, an early dessert apple that can provide useful acidity in blends with the early Bittersweets.

**Sansa** – Early bloom, ripens early September, annual and moderately productive, scab resistant, midsize fruit hangs well on tree, good for dessert, little acidity but adds floral aromas in cider.

**Liberty** – Early bloom, ripens late September, good disease resistance, annual and productive, aromatic sharp, short storage potential, dessert and cider blends.

**Crimson Crisp** – Mid bloom, ripens mid-October, annual and productive, self-thinning, prone to fire blight, tip bearing with droopy habit, dessert and ciders.

**Sundance** – Mid bloom, ripens late October, similar to GoldRush, annual and productive, fruit hangs and keeps well, good dessert apple that adds spice and acidity to cider.

**Enterprise** – Mid bloom, ripens late October, annual and productive on dwarf rootstocks, large sub-acid fruit hangs well, long storage potential, good for dessert and cider blends.

**GoldRush** – Mid bloom, ripens early November, annual and very productive when thinned aggressively, good disease resistance, moderate vigor, natural central axe form, nonbrowning flesh and juice, very long storage potential, excellent dessert and base cider variety.

LIST ASSEMBLED FROM DATA AUTHORED BY IAN MERWIN AND PUBLISHED IN THE NEW YORK STATE FRUIT QUARTERLY.