

Apple Varieties

- Cortland** - early September, large red fruit, slightly tart, all uses
- Crow Egg** - old variety, red, large conical shape
- Fuji** - October, orange/yellow, sweet subacid, all uses, good keeper
- Gala** - mid August, red over yellow, semi-sweet, all uses
- Golden Delicious** - mid September, yellow, sweet, all uses
- Granny Smith** - October, green, moderately sweet, all uses, stores well
- Jonagold** - mid September, red over yellow, slightly tart, all uses, stores well
- McIntosh** - Early September, red over green, slightly tart, all uses
- Red Delicious** - early-mid September, red, sweet, excellent dessert use,
- keeps well
- Rome Beauty** - October, red over green, mildly tart, baking, cider, keeps well
- Stayman Winesap** - October, red, tart, wine-like flavor, all uses, stores well
- Virginia Beauty** - old variety, dark red, good keeper



Programs in agriculture and natural resources, 4-H youth development, family and consumer sciences, and resource development.
University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture and county governments cooperating.
UT Extension provides equal opportunities in programs and employment.

Apples - A Tradition

Growing apples has been a way of life for several families over the past century in Unicoi County. For many, it has also become a tradition to visit the orchards and purchase their favorite apples.

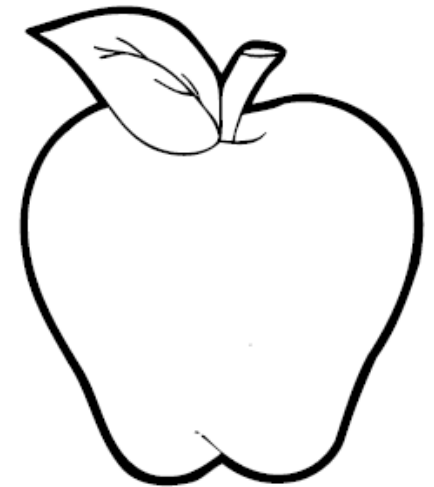
Unicoi County is one of the best places in the state to grow apples due to the climate found in the higher elevations of this mountainous area. The mountains also provide us with some of the most scenic drives and vistas in all of Tennessee.

Since 1978, Unicoi County has hosted the Apple Festival, held annually on the first Friday and Saturday of October. The Apple Festival is a huge event with over 300 vendors lining the streets of downtown Erwin. However, a visit to the Apple Festival would not be complete without a visit to one of our fine local orchards. In this guide, you'll find that each orchard is unique and has a special experience to offer its visitors. Visit an orchard and find out why apples really are a tradition in Unicoi County!

Brochure provided by:

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Apple Orchards of Unicoi County



Enjoy a scenic drive and
some fresh, wholesome,
locally grown apples!

Orchards

Briggs Orchard

Flag Pond, Open July-December, 743-6700

This may be the county's oldest orchard still in operation. The original trees were planted in the 1800's and the orchard is currently managed by the family's fifth generation. The orchard features twenty-three new and old varieties of apples including Gala, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Rome, Crow Egg, Virginia Beauty, Fuji, and Winesap.

Harley & Merley Willis Orchard

Coffee Ridge, Sept.-Nov., 743-3095 or 7365

This orchard began around 1950. It is now in the hands of brothers Harley and Merley, the second generation of the Willis family to run the orchard. Featured varieties include Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Rome, Virginia Beauty, Crow Egg, McIntosh, and Cortland.

Harris Orchard

Coffee Ridge, mid August-Oct., 743-6882

This orchard is over fifty years old and is nestled in a beautiful valley. Harris Orchard features several varieties including McIntosh, Golden Delicious, Crow Egg, Rome Beauty, Stayman/Winesap, and a few older varieties. Home-grown pumpkins and potatoes are also sold at the orchard.



Heavenly Holler Farm

Flag Pond, July-November, 735-7161

This is a new U-Pick orchard with semi-dwarf trees. It is planted on flat ground and with a spectacular view. The featured varieties include Gala, Jonagold, Fuji, Braeburn, McIntosh, Granny Smith, Jonathan, Stayman, Mutsu, Cortland, Winter Banana, and Red & Golden Delicious. Blueberries, blackberries, peaches, and Asian pears are also available.

Price Family Orchard

Coffee Ridge, mid Sept.-Nov., 743-6489

This orchard was established by the Price family in 1918 and is now run by the third generation. The orchard features over sixty varieties of apples including Stayman, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Crow Egg, Rome Beauty, and Winter Banana. Starting in 2005, grapes, pears, and peaches will be sold.

Rice Orchard

Flag Pond, mid August-October, 743-7745

Chester Rice planted this orchard in the 1950's and is still managing the orchard. The orchard features Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Roman Beauty, Mutsu, Fuji, Granny Smith, and Stayman.

Willis Orchard

Coffee Ridge, September-October, 743-4886

The orchard was originally established nearly sixty years ago by Franciard Willis and is currently managed by his son, Michael Willis. They still have most of the original trees plus lots of new plantings. The orchard has several varieties including Golden Delicious, Red Delicious, Stayman, Rome, Cortland, Gala, Fuji, Jonagold, and Crow Egg.

Driving Directions

Coffee Ridge Community Orchards

From Erwin, take I-26 east to exit 12, Temple Hill. Turn left at the first stop sign and immediately turn right at the next stop sign onto 19W south. Go 1 mile and turn left to stay on 19W south towards Burnsville. Go 1.5 miles and turn right on Tilson Mountain Rd. Go .8 mile and turn left on Coffee Ridge Rd. **Harris Orchard** is .6 miles ahead. After 1.7 miles on Coffee Ridge Rd., the road forks and makes a loop. Go left .3 mile to **Harley and Merley Willis Orchard** or right .7 mile to **Willis Orchard**. Go left at the loop and after .2 mile, turn left onto Price Road and continue .5 mile to **Price Family Orchard** on left.



Flag Pond Orchards

Briggs and Rice Orchards:

From Erwin, take I-26 east to exit 5, Flag Pond Rd. Turn left at the first stop sign onto Upper Higgins Creek Rd. Go .6 mile and turn right onto Old Asheville Hwy toward Flag Pond. Go .3 mile and turn left on Rice Creek Rd. Go 3 miles to **Briggs Orchard** on left or go another mile or two to **Rice Orchard** on left.

Heavenly Holler Farm:

From Erwin, take I-26 east to exit 5, Flag Pond Rd. Turn left at the first stop sign onto Upper Higgins Creek Rd. Go .6 mile and turn left onto Old Asheville Highway toward NC. Go 3.4 miles on Old Asheville Hwy and turn left at the **Heavenly Holler Farm** Sign.