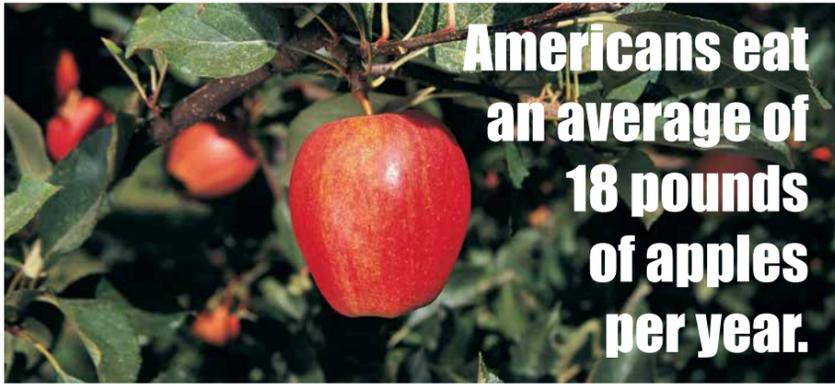


Illinois Ag Mag Apple

An agricultural magazine for kids

Apple Production

Thirty-six states grow apples to sell, including Illinois. An estimated 7,500 U.S. apple growers manage orchards covering 379,000 acres, and produce 221 million bushels per year. Most of these apple orchards are in our northern states, such as Washington, Michigan, and New York. Washington state has the best climate in the world to grow apples because of its warm days and cool nights. Of all the apples grown in the United States, half are sold fresh and half are made into apple sauce, apple juice, or dehydrated apple products.



Americans eat an average of 18 pounds of apples per year.

The State Fruit: The GoldRush Apple

Do you know all your state symbols? State Public Act 95-0328 officially made the GoldRush Apple Illinois' State Fruit on August 21, 2007. The GoldRush Apple is a sweet-tart yellow apple that was developed through a disease resistant apple breeding program. The GoldRush is a cross between a Golden Delicious and a lab variety apple called Co-op 17. The GoldRush Apple is a hybrid apple because it is a cross between two different varieties of apples. One significant result from this cross is that the GoldRush has a long shelf life, making it available to store longer.

How did the GoldRush get its name? Scientists named the apple based on its golden, bronze color and the "rush" of flavor you get from the first bite. The GoldRush is a great apple to grow because it has qualities that make it disease resistant to apple scab, fire blight and apple mildew, all common diseases that can wipe out an apple crop.



The Legend of Johnny Appleseed

The legend states that John Chapman, who was born in Massachusetts in 1774, planted more than 10,000 square miles of orchards. He began in Pennsylvania and while traveling barefoot and using a saucepan for a hat, spread the word about the importance of apples in people's diets. He died in 1845 at the age of 71 in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Everyone called him "Johnny Appleseed."



How a Bill Becomes a Law

In order for the GoldRush Apple to become our state fruit, the idea had to go through the legislative process. So how does a bill become a law? It starts out as an idea. A fourth-grade class of Woodlawn Elementary School initiated this legislation after learning that Illinois was one of the few states that did not recognize a state fruit. After doing research, they contacted Senator John Jones, who was the primary sponsor of the bill. Take a look at the graphic below to see how a bill becomes a law in Illinois.

