



Apple Picking Season in Full Swing - Visit our MassGrown Agri-Google Map to Find an Orchard Near You

As we approach the start of the fall season we are pleased to let you know that summer's crazy weather thankfully left Massachusetts' apple orchards largely unscathed. Our orchard growers have plenty of hearty apples available for picking! Visit your local orchards, farm stands, and farmers' markets to stock up on your favorite apple varieties.

There are about 78 apple orchards in the Commonwealth, where people can enjoy apple picking, fresh cider, aromatic baked pies and dumplings, and activities such as hayrides, face painting, and fall festivals.

In addition to being tasty, all apple varieties from McIntosh, Cortlands, Macouns, Gala and Honeycrisp, to Jonagold and Fuji are nutritious. According to the United States Apple Association, apples contain no fat, saturated fat, cholesterol or sodium. Apples are also an excellent source of fiber, natural plant-based anti-oxidants, and the mineral boron, which promotes healthy bones.



Purchasing Massachusetts-grown apples is an ideal way to celebrate the autumn harvest and support local farmers at the same time. For a list of Massachusetts apple orchards, pick-your-own apple farms, and farmers' markets and roadside produce stands, DAR has an easy-to-use farm finder at www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/map.htm, which provides information about local farms, their locations, and (in most cases) contact information. For a direct link to Pick-Your-Own Apple Orchards, [click here](#). For additional information on apple varieties visit the New England Apple's website: www.newenglandapples.org/AppleVarieties-id-37.html

Other Fall Agricultural Events Coming Up – Mark your Calendars for One of the Many Great Events On-going and Coming Up this Fall Harvest Season

Eastern States Exposition: September 16th - October 2nd



The Big E, the largest agricultural fair in the Northeast, is home to top name entertainment, The Big E Super Circus, The Avenue of States (visit the Massachusetts Building), Storrowton Village Museum, animals, agricultural competitive exhibits, rides, shopping, crafts, a daily parade and a Mardi Gras parade. More information at www.thebige.com.

Topsfield Fair: September 30th – October 10th

America's oldest and finest agricultural fair, has run every fall since 1818. The fair features The Grand Parade, demonstrations (ranging from beekeeping to miniature trains), a Grange Museum, pumpkin weigh-offs, many acts and attractions, the 4-H Agricultural/Arts and Crafts exhibits and so much more. The quintessential country fair - traditional agriculture, big entertainment, rides, games, shopping, and great food... something for everyone, not too far from home! www.topsfieldfair.org

13th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival - October 1-2

A scent-sational destination for fabulous family fun, amazing art and agriculture, and serious skills for local living. Enjoy garlic-growing and gardening workshops then choose from a unique selection to plant or eat. The festival emphasizes what is homegrown, handmade and high quality, as well as what helps preserve and support agriculture, environment and the community. Everyone involved – organizers, exhibitors, volunteers, performers, attendees, a supportive community – makes the festival what it is: an engaging, fun and educational celebration for all ages. Saturday & Sunday, 10 am-5 pm, Forster's Farm, Orange.

<http://garlicandarts.org/>

2nd Annual Boston Food Festival - October 1st

Along the Boston Waterfront in Fort Point Channel for a free admission and zero-waste festival where you will find farmers, fisher folk, producers and chefs selling and showcasing local food. bostonlocalfoodfestival.com

Hey Day/Farm Day at Wachusett Meadow - October 1st

Cider, cheese, Stillwater ice cream, baked goods and sweets plus produce and products offered by the Princeton Farmers' Market, Red Apple Farm, and other area farms. Exhibits and hands on farm related activities for people of all ages including cider pressing, blacksmithing, hay rides, canoeing, and live music.

www.massaudubon.org

Head to South Shore for Columbus Day Weekend, With a Stop at the 1st Annual Sustainable South Shore Celebration

Oct. 8th at the Marshfield Fairgrounds - enjoy, learn and eat sustainability South Shore style!

www.ediblecommunities.com. You also won't want to miss the 8th Annual Cranberry Harvest Celebration, www.cranberryharvest.org, on Oct. 8 & 9 at the A.D. Makepeace Co. in Wareham. Come see cranberries harvested!



Open Farm Sunday – October 16th

The Massachusetts Dairy Promotion Board (www.massdairy.com) and Cabot Cooperative invites you to visit farm families on Sunday, October 16, 2011, from 11 – 2 pm to learn about life on a dairy farm and how Massachusetts dairy farmers are using family traditions as well as modern technology to care for their cows and produce quality products for the people in their communities. Come see the attention to detail and the compassion for the cows that makes the farmers of Cabot among the best in the country. Visit www.OpenFarmSunday.coop for more information. These tours are free and participating Massachusetts Dairy Farms are

Fletcher Farm, Southampton, MA; Great Brook Farm, Carlisle, MA; Lolans Farm, Middleboro, MA; Longview Farm, Hadley, MA; Mt Toby Farm, Sunderland, MA; and Rockwood Farm, Granville, MA.



The Great New England Apple Pie Contest at Wachusett Mountain's 28th Annual Applefest

Applefest, Wachusett Mountain's longest running fall festival returns on **October 15-16**, celebrating its 28th year! Featured at the event are a wide selection of crafters, farmers, food and activities, including the 2nd Annual Great New England Apple Pie Contest. All bakers are invited to take part in the Apple Pie Contest, which features both professional and amateur divisions. Pies will be judged on appearance, presentation, crust, texture, flavor and secret ingredients. Details at www.greatnewenglandapplepiecontest.com.

Find a complete listing of fall celebrations on our **Calendar of Culinary and Agricultural Events**, visit and bookmark: www.mass.gov/agr/massgrown/calendar.htm

You're just one click away!

