



SWANSON'S MOUNTAIN VIEW ORCHARD NEWSLETTER



WELCOME BACK!

Find updates on this year's crop, U-Pick season, summer events, what to expect this fall, and a look at which apple varieties will be available.

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U-PICK RETURNS

Spend a day in the orchard picking your own heirloom McIntosh apples, enjoying fresh cider donuts and slushies, feeding the animals, getting family pictures taken, and taking in views of the Bitterroots. *Read more on pg. 6.*

September 12–13 & September 19–20 | 10 AM – 5 PM





AN UPDATE FROM THE ORCHARD

WHY DO WE USE WIND MACHINES?

Wind machines help protect apple blossoms during certain frost events by mixing the air layers above the orchard. On clear, still nights, a layer of warmer air often sits just above the ground while colder air settles around the trees. The wind machines pull that warmer air downward and circulate it through the orchard to raise the temperature around the blossoms.



Every growing season is different, and this will certainly be one we won't forget.

Although we anticipate harvesting only 30–40% of last year's record crop, we are incredibly grateful to still have apples on the trees. Many orchards throughout the Bitterroot Valley and across Montana experienced devastating frost damage this spring, with some seeing little to no crop at all. While we're saddened by this season's challenges, we're thankful to have a harvest to share with our community.



After an unusually mild winter in late 2025 and early 2026, our apple trees began to think winter was over, leaving them especially vulnerable to the cold weather that followed. During our peak bloom week, the orchard experienced approximately three inches of snow, followed by a night that dropped to 24°F on the farm.



To help protect the orchard, we utilized every frost mitigation tool available to us, including wind machines, smudge pots (above), and irrigation. These efforts played a significant role in preserving the crop we do have today.

Some varieties fared better than others. Our McIntosh apples have the strongest fruit set this season, while our Empire crop is unfortunately non-existent. The Empire block, located

In lower river-bottom areas throughout the Bitterroot Valley, temperatures reached as low as 18–20°F. During bloom, apple blossoms ideally need temperatures to remain around 28°F or warmer to avoid significant damage, so these freezing temperatures resulted in substantial crop loss across the region.





along the outskirts of the orchard, did not receive the same level of warming from our wind machines and may also be more susceptible to frost damage than other varieties.

Even after surviving the April freeze, another unusually cold night in May brought additional challenges. Unlike the April event, this was not an inversion frost, making it much more difficult to protect the orchard. The May freeze contributed to a much stronger-than-normal June drop, causing many of the young apples that had initially survived to fall from the trees.

Living Blossom



Frost Damaged Blossom



While this year's crop is significantly smaller than last year's record harvest, we're thankful that the orchard's higher elevation above the valley floor, the natural slope of the land, and the frost protection tools available to us allowed us to produce a crop at all. Every apple we'll harvest this fall is a reminder of just how resilient these trees, and farming itself, can be.

This harvest will certainly look different than last year's, but we're excited to welcome you back to the orchard. Thank you for continuing to support our family farm through both the abundant years and the challenging ones. Your encouragement, visits, and investments in our farm products mean more than ever, and we look forward to sharing this season's harvest with you!





While our production has decreased significantly, the costs of growing, maintaining, packing, and distributing our apples have remained the same. As a result, the on-farm average price per bushel box of apples for the 2026 season will increase by an average of approximately \$0.50 per pound, up from last year's price of just over \$1.00 per pound, bringing your price to approximately \$1.50 per pound. This adjustment helps us cover as much of our production costs as possible while continuing to provide the quality apples and products our customers expect.

We know price increases are never easy, and we sincerely appreciate the understanding and continued support of our customers. Your support allows our family farm to continue weathering challenging seasons like this one, and we're grateful to be part of such a supportive community.

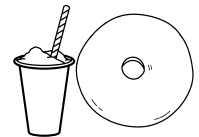
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RIVER CITY ROOTS FESTIVAL

22
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August 22 | 8:30 AM – 2 PM

Ryman & Main St., Missoula



We'll be at the River City Roots Festival on Friday, August 22, serving fresh apple cider donuts and apple cider slushies. Enjoy a day of live music, local food, art, and community in the heart of downtown Missoula.



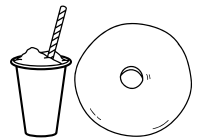
RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR & RODEO

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SEP

3
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4
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September 2–5 | 10 AM – 10 PM

Ravalli County Fairgrounds, 100 Old Corvallis Rd., Hamilton

Join us at the Ravalli County Fair, where you'll find rides, exhibits, livestock, entertainment, and local vendors. Stop by our trailer for fresh apple cider donuts and refreshing apple cider slushies while you enjoy the fair.

Apple cider donuts & apple cider slushies are only available at the indicated events and not in our storefront.



SWANSON'S APPLE U-PICK



September 12–13 & 19–20 | 10 AM – 5 PM | 1752 Mountain View Orchard Road, Corvallis

**12
SEP**

**13
SEP**

**19
SEP**

**20
SEP**

Spend a day in the orchard picking fresh McIntosh apples straight from the tree. Enjoy family-friendly fun, beautiful orchard views, and fresh apple cider donuts and apple cider slushies from our trailer. *We're thankful we have apples in our U-Pick orchard; however, we will be expanding our U-Pick space as a result of having fewer apples per tree. Get ready to use our "apple grabbers", as the best fruit will be harder to reach than in previous years.*

swansonsmountainvieworchard.com/offerings/u-pick





STOREFRONT OPENING

1
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October 1 | 10 AM – 5 PM

1752 Mountain View Orchard Rd., Corvallis

We'll open with our early varieties — Zestar, Snow Sweet, Paula Red, Viking, Early Gold, Transparent — while supplies last (quantities are limited for some varieties this year as a result of the frost). Bulk apple varieties that you'll love, like McIntosh and Spartans, will also be available, with Golden & Red Delicious to follow later in October.

APPLE DAY

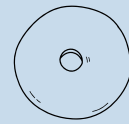
3
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October 3 | 9 AM – 2 PM

205 Bedford St., Hamilton

McIntosh Apple Day at the Ravalli County Museum marks the official start of cider season! We'll be pouring our first fresh-pressed cider of the year and selling McIntosh apples, picked straight from the orchard. Cider will then be available in our storefront, starting October 5th.

LIQUID APPLE NIGHT



3
OCT

October 3 | 5 – 9 PM

205 Bedford St., Hamilton

We'll have our apple cider donut truck serving up warm treats to pair perfectly with your cider tastings at Liquid Apple Night, following Apple Day at the Ravalli County Museum. We're looking forward to another fun event!



APPLE CIDER DONUT DAYS

24
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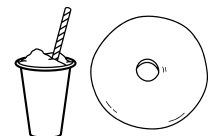
21
NOV

October 24, November 21 | 10 AM – 5 PM

1752 Mountain View Orchard Rd., Corvallis

Visit us at the orchard for Apple Cider

Donut Days! Enjoy fresh apple cider donuts, hot apple cider or apple cider slushies (weather dependent), and shop our storefront for fresh apples, cider, and locally raised, apple and grass-fed beef.



***Apple cider donuts & apple cider slushies are only available at
the indicated events and not in our storefront.***



SUMMER RECAP

Montana School Nutrition Association Summer Conference

We attended the Montana School Nutrition Association (MTSNA) Summer Conference, where we connected with school nutrition professionals and partners from across the state who share our commitment to bringing fresh, local food to students. These conversations continue to strengthen partnerships that help get Montana-grown apples into school lunches across the state.

We're working toward supplying more than 450 bushel boxes of apples for **Montana Crunch Time**, a statewide celebration that encourages students to take a synchronized "crunch" into locally grown produce while learning about Montana agriculture and supporting local farmers. To meet this exciting

October deadline, our team will be harvesting, washing, sorting, and packing apples to ensure schools receive fresh Montana apples for the celebration.



Food Trailer Season

Our food trailer has had a fantastic start to the summer! Apple cider donuts and apple cider slushies have been a hit at community events, giving us a fun way to connect with our community while building excitement for the upcoming harvest season.

By the end of July, we've already served more than 1,000 apple cider donuts and over 150 apple cider slushies. We enjoyed seeing so many familiar and new faces at events like the Twisted Nut Rodeo and Bitterroot Brewfest, and we look forward to serving even more of our community throughout the rest of the season.





APPLE TASTE PROFILES & CROP QUANTITY UPDATE

September Wonder* – Crisp and sweet with honey and citrus notes

Zestar* – Sweet and tangy with hints of brown sugar

Empire – Juicy and crisp, balanced sweet-tart flavor (*no supply due to frost*)

Ruby McIntosh – Firm, crisp, and sweet-tart

Snappy McIntosh – Spicy-sweet flavor

Spartan* – Crisp texture with a sweet finish

Winter Banana** – Tangy, juicy, and refreshing

Red Delicious – Sweet and crisp, a classic favorite (no supply due to frost)

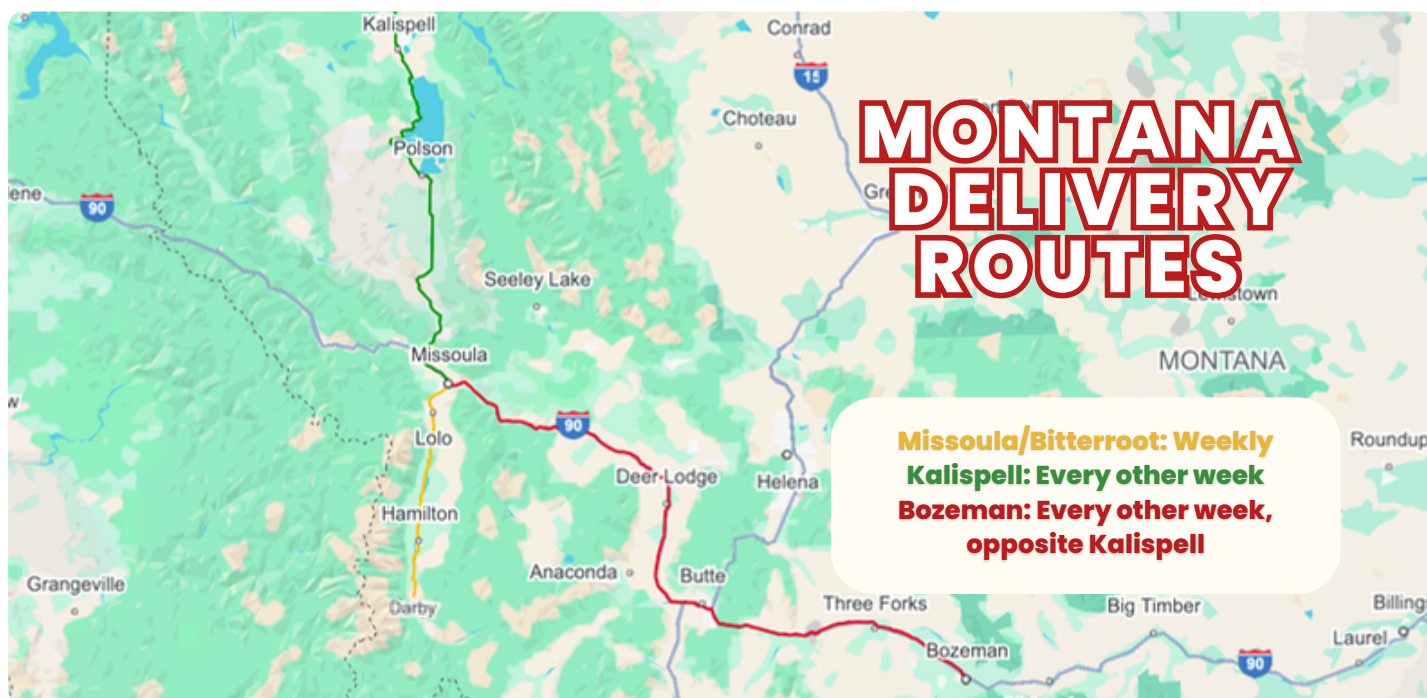
Snow Sweet* – Sweet with a hint of tartness and rich undertones

Golden Delicious – Exceptionally sweet

Early Gold** – Sweet yellow-green, first harvested each fall

**Limited supply due to frost*

***Limited supply*



October – First deliveries to stores (all routes). After that, Bozeman and Kalispell deliveries will alternate every other week and Missoula deliveries will occur weekly.





OFFERINGS

All varieties in our storefront are available in 5 lb. bags, 1/2 bushel (+/- 20 lbs.), and full bushel boxes (+/- 40 lbs).

- US Grade A Combination Fancy/Extra Fancy: 3" - 3 1/4" diameter (Large)
- US Grade A Combination Fancy/Extra Fancy: 2 5/8" - 3" diameter (Medium)
- US Grade A Combination Fancy/Extra Fancy: 2 5/16" - 2 5/8" diameter (Small)
- Cooking Grade - peelable, minor surface defects, no color requirement, 2 5/8" min. diameter

Look for our Three-Pound Bags

This year, McIntosh and Spartan varieties are also available in 3 lb. bags **in stores only** when deliveries begin in October.



Our Storefront opens October 1st!

FALL APPLE CIDER

Swanson's Mountain View Orchard also offers fresh apple cider by the gallon and half gallon. Cider will be available in the storefront on October 5th, following Apple Day on October 3rd (see pg. 7).

*All natural with no additives or preservatives
UV treated in accordance with FDA regulations*



LOCATIONS

Where can you find Swanson's apples and cider?

The Bitterroot Valley:

- Hamilton's Marketplace – Hamilton
- Albertsons – Hamilton
- Safeway – Hamilton
- Super 1 Foods – Hamilton, Stevensville
- Burnt Fork Market – Stevensville
- Gary & Leo's – Florence
- Lolo Harvest Foods – Lolo
- The People's Market – Darby

Missoula:

- Albertsons – Reserve Street, Russel Street, Oxford Street, & Broadway
- Pattee Creek Market
- Orange Street Food Farm
- Rosauers

Butte:

- Three Bears

Belgrade:

- Albertsons

Bozeman:

- Town & Country Foods – all Bozeman stores
- Bozeman Community Food Co-op
- Albertsons & Safeway stores

Polson:

- Super 1 Foods

Ronan:

- Harvest Foods

St. Ignatius:

- Rod's Harvest Foods

Deer Lodge:

- Valley Foods

Kalispell:

- Super 1 Foods – both locations

Town & Country Foods

Billings, Lewistown, Livingston, Belgrade, & Dillon

Super 1 Foods

Kalispell, Whitefish, Hamilton, Polson, Stevensville, & Columbia Falls locations



**SWANSON'S MOUNTAIN
VIEW ORCHARD**

AUGUST 2026

STAY IN TOUCH



**1752 Mountain View Orchard Road
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Visit our website for more updates!
www.swansonsmountainvieworchard.com

Find us on

