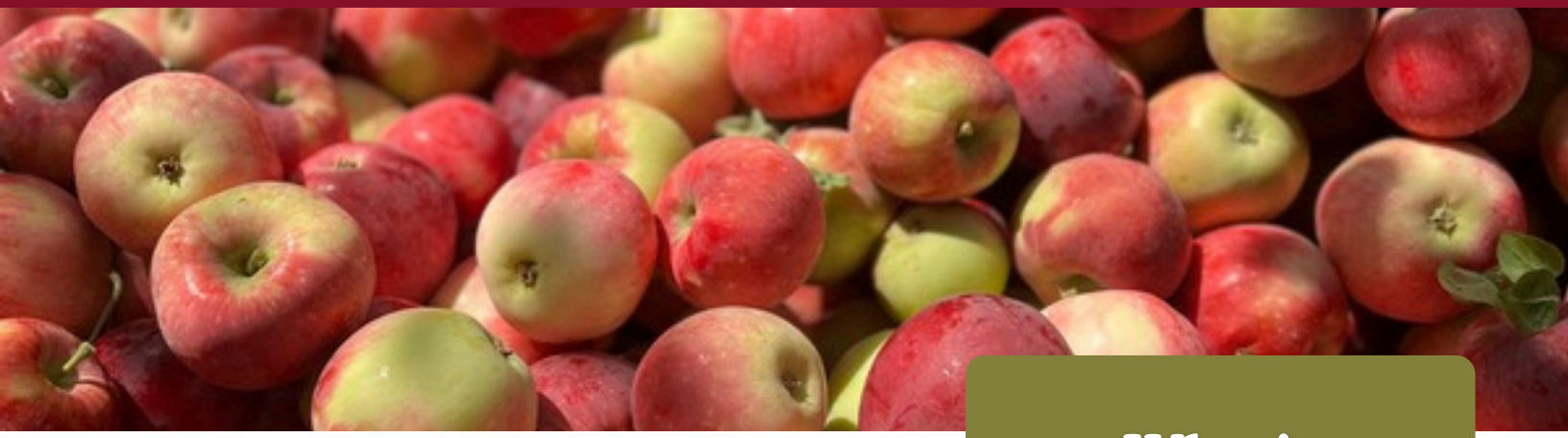
SWANSON'S MOUNTAIN VIEW ORCHARD NEWSLETTER



HARVEST SEASON IS HERE!

The first apples are coming off the trees, and there's plenty happening around the farm as we head into one of our busiest, most exciting times of year. Here's what's happening at Swanson's this September.

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APPLE U-PICK

Our annual U-Pick weekends are almost here! Bring the family, enjoy a day on the farm, and take home McIntosh apples at the peak of the season. We'll have baskets ready for you! *More on pg. 5.*

September 12 & 13, September 19 & 20, 10 am - 5 pm

AN UPDATE FROM THE ORCHARD

HOW DO WE KNOW WHEN AN APPLE IS READY TO HARVEST?

An apple's color offers a clue, but we also measure several indicators to determine when it's ready to harvest.

We test the apple's ***Brix level***, which tells us how much sugar is present in the fruit. As an apple matures, its Brix level increases, contributing to the sweetness and flavor we expect from a ripe apple.

We also test ***internal pressure***, which helps us measure firmness and determine how far along the fruit is in the ripening process.

Additionally, as the apple develops, the ***seeds*** darken, and the fruit's ***cavity***, or area around the seeds, begins to open up.

The cooler days and nights are bringing harvest along a little quicker than usual, combined with the earlier and longer bloom period we experienced this year. We're optimistic that, while we'll only be able to harvest about 30% of last year's total volume, the fruit we do have is shaping up beautifully, with one last push from Mother Nature!

The spring frost affected the orchard during bloom, so some varieties will be in especially limited supply. Even so, the apples that made it through are developing well, with encouraging size, color, and flavor. We're watching the orchard closely and using weather patterns, fruit development, and taste tests to determine when

each variety is ready to pick.

While this will be a smaller harvest, we're looking forward to sharing the apples we do have through local stores, Montana schools, the WMGC CSA, and our annual U-Pick weekends. With one last push from Mother Nature, we're hopeful the fruit will finish the season beautifully.

We finished harvesting the Viking, Yellow Transparent, Zestar, Paula Red, and Early Gold apples this month. After picking, we shook the remaining fruit from the trees (by hand!) and used our ground apple harvester to collect them for our animals to munch on.

MISSOULA ROOTS FESTIVAL

We also had a great time at the Missoula Roots Festival, where we sold 500 apple cider donuts and 50 apple cider slushies and got to connect with the Missoula community.

This event was especially meaningful because Green Bench Orchard, the orchard that has traditionally offered U-Pick apples in Missoula, lost its apple crop to the spring frost and won't be able to operate its U-Pick this year.

We were glad to be able to share with the Missoula community that there are still apples to be picked! Our orchard in Corvallis is just a little farther south, and we'd love to welcome you to Swanson's for U-Pick this fall.

RAVALLI COUNTY FAIR

We're so grateful for the support of our community, especially during a difficult year like this one. The Ravalli County Fair gave us another opportunity to share local food, connect with our neighbors, and celebrate Montana agriculture. And you all showed up hungry! We made and sold 3,500 apple cider donuts over the course of the fair. We loved seeing familiar faces and meeting new ones. We especially loved watching people try one donut and come back for either a six-pack or a dozen to take home later.

Thank you for continuing to support local farms and businesses. We're grateful to be part of this community.

APPLES FOR THE WESTERN MONTANA GROWERS CO-OP CSA

This month, we'll begin sorting apples for the Western Montana Growers Cooperative CSA boxes. We'll be hand-bagging Viking and Paula Red apples to send to WMGC for their members.

Western Montana Growers Cooperative *(WMGC) is a coalition of growers in the Flathead, Jocko, Mission and Bitterroot Valleys whose goal is to provide the market in our region with fresh, quality products from our farms. WMGC is* ***farmer-owned*** *and supplies a full plate of Montana-grown products to grocery stores, restaurants, and institutions across Montana and into Northern Idaho and Eastern Washington. We also provide the same products in a weekly delivery box to individual customers through our* ***Community Supported Agriculture*** *(CSA) service throughout Western Montana, bringing our food directly to local food lovers. WMGC believes in making* ***fresh and nutritious local food*** *available to our community, while fairly supporting local agricultural producers.*

- A weekly delivery to your neighborhood that you can feel good about. It lowers food transportation costs, provides a great diet, and supports your local farmers.
- A taste of all the flavors of Western Montana. Including vegetables and fruit (like Swanson's apples), with add-on opportunities for dairy and whole foods as well!
- Crops are harvested and packed the week of your delivery.
- While the crop contents are never guaranteed week to week, the value of the subscription is. The program has run for over a decade and has served thousands of MT families.

www.wmgcoop.com/how-csa-works

HARVEST BEGINS

Our Washington harvest crew will arrive on September 14 to harvest the first round of apples: Heirloom McIntosh, Snappy McIntosh, and Ruby McIntosh. They'll return in mid-October to harvest Golden Delicious, Cordera, and Snow Sweet. We'll have limited quantities of Cordera and Snow Sweet this year, but we're especially excited about the first season of offering Golden Delicious in 3-pound bags in stores.

We've been waiting for a year when the Golden Delicious crop would meet the quality we're looking for, and this season is shaping up beautifully.

Later in the season, we'll announce dates and locations for Golden Delicious taste testing at stores. Your feedback will help stores understand how much demand there is for this variety, so if you get the chance to try one, let us know what you think!

SWANSON'S APPLE U-PICK

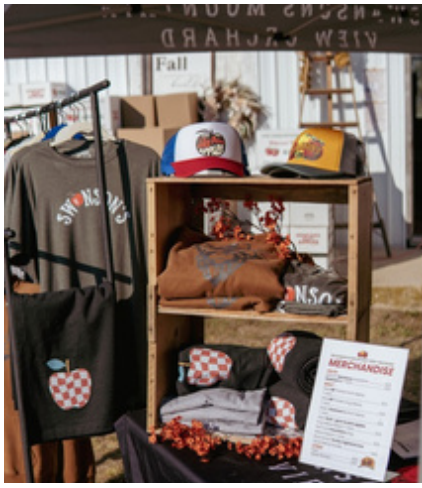
September 12–13 & 19–20 | 10 AM – 5 PM | *1752 Mountain View Orchard Road, Corvallis*

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



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STOREFRONT OPENING

SCHEDULE A FIELD TRIP!
Email kendall@swansons mountainvieworchard.com

1 OCT

October 1 | 10 AM – 5 PM
1752 Mountain View Orchard Rd., Corvallis

We'll open with Zestar, Spartan, McIntosh, and Ruby McIntosh, with Snow Sweet, Golden Delicious, and Cordera to follow later (quantities are limited for some varieties this year as a result of the frost).

APPLE DAY

3 OCT

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.

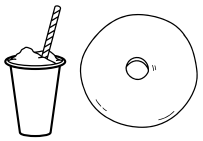
LIQUID APPLE NIGHT

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 OCT **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.

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 ¼" diameter (Large)
- US Grade A Combination Fancy/Extra Fancy: 2 ⅝" - 3" diameter (Medium)
- US Grade A Combination Fancy/Extra Fancy: 2 $^{5}/_{16}$" - 2 ⅝" diameter (Small)
- Cooking Grade - peelable, minor surface defects, no color requirement, 2 ⅝" min. diameter

Look for our Three-Pound Bags

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

Our Storefront opens October 1st!

FALL APPLE CIDER

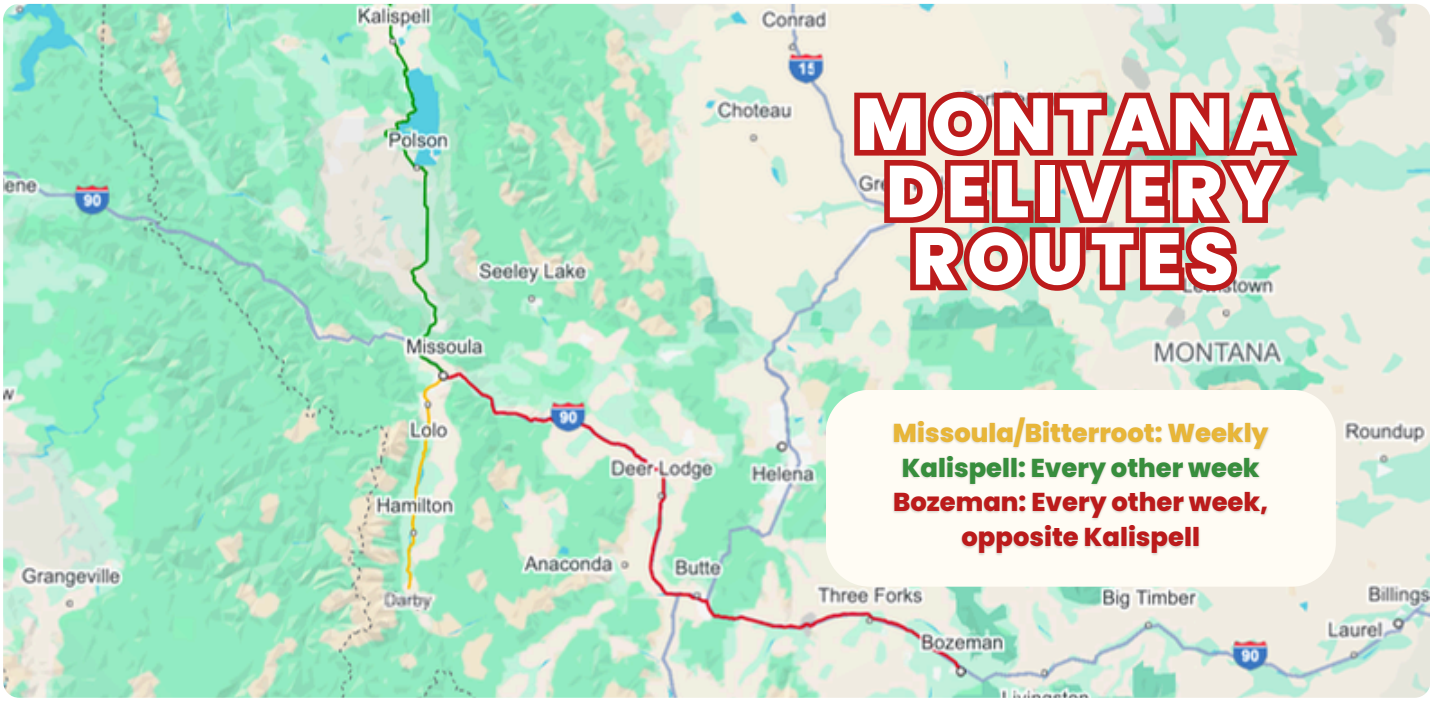
Swanson's Mountain View Orchard also offers fresh apple cider by the gallon and half gallon. Cider will be available in the storefront on October 5th, following Apple Day on October 3rd (see pg. 7).

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

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



DELIVERY SCHEDULE *(SUBJECT TO CHANGES)*

Missoula/Bitterroot: McIntosh apples beginning September 30. McIntosh & Spartan apples and cider beginning October 7, then every Wednesday until we run out
Bozeman: McIntosh & Spartan apples and cider beginning October 6, then every other Tuesday until we run out
Kalispell: McIntosh & Spartan apples and cider beginning October 13, then every other Tuesday until we run out

Golden Delicious apples will be picked in mid-October, and we will begin adding this variety to our bagged/bulk apple delivery schedule shortly thereafter.

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

STAY IN TOUCH

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Visit our website for more updates!

www.swansonsmountainvieworchard.com

Find us on