



## The Appeal of Apples MP3

**Gary Crawford** [00:00:00] Once again, we're forcing our way into your radio or listening device from the Agriculture Department's farmers market in Washington, D.C., a delightful fall day here, broadcasting from the VegU-cation tent of that hotbed of higher learning, good old VegU. (Trumpet sounds). Thank you very much for that. Actually, it is fruituccasion today as we drill into our core values and look at apples, very psychologically deep subject. On this edition of Agriculture USA, I'm Gary Crawford. There are lots of songs about apples, of course, but this old one is particularly apropos, or just po...

**Singing Voiceover** [00:00:38] An apple for the teacher, just shows that I'm making miles. If you insist on saying, that I'm just the problem child...

**Gary Crawford** [00:00:46] But instead of bringing apples to the teacher today are two visiting teachers are turning that around. Right?

**Jessa Allen** [00:00:52] We've brought in a few different varieties for people to try out. We also are here to encourage people to eat more apples.

**Gary Crawford** [00:00:57] So our guest lecturers, Jessa Allen and Matt Hendrickson, both with the U.S. Apple Association and of course, Apple to have a lot of associations with history and such. Take that story of Adam and Eve...

**Jessa Allen** [00:01:07] No, no, no, no, we are not going back to the Garden of Eden with the apple.

**Gary Crawford** [00:01:10] No?

**Jessa Allen** [00:01:10] It was not named in there, and yeah, no.

**Gary Crawford** [00:01:12] Oh, a little sensitive about that, are we? okay.

**Matt Hendrickson** [00:01:15] But on the other side it did discover gravity. You can tribute that to the apple there.

**Gary Crawford** [00:01:20] Hey, Matt, you're pretty much right about that, of course. An apple did not discover gravity, but it certainly played a part. 1667 was the year, Isaac Newton sitting under an apple tree, reportedly, fate takes a hand and the apple falls, hits him in the head, which gets Isaac to thinking. Now, one, why didn't it fall up or sideways? Number two, why was I sitting under the tree in the first place? Gravity.

**Gary Crawford** [00:01:43] (Orchestra plays). Yes. Our VegU orchestra with the appropriate, not good, but appropriate William Tell Overture. One more famous story about apples. The year supposedly 1307, the Place Austria, William or Bill or Billy, gets a local official mad at him by refusing to remove his hat, while this official's around. So, to save his son's life on his own, William Tell, is compelled to propel, an arrow at 120 paces through an apple sitting on his son's head. He carefully aims and shoots (sound of an arrow that's been shot). Apple split, son, not split. But historians are not sure if that tale's actually true. But it is now time to sneak in some true facts. Jessa and Matt, you did bring a lot of types of apples for people here to taste. What is probably the most popular variety these days?

**Jessa & Matt** [00:02:36] Gala!

**Matt Hendrickson** [00:02:36] Gala is the top variety at the moment.

**Gary Crawford** [00:02:38] Wow, that takes red delicious out of the top spot, it's been in for half a century. Now, just listening to you guys talking with people out here, I learned that for my whole life, Actually, I have been wrong, wrong, wrong. Jessa, I thought I was supposed to store apples out at room temperature, you know, like tomatoes.

**Jessa & Matt** [00:02:56] Oh Boy.

**Gary Crawford** [00:02:56] Oh, wow. Well, I guess that proves that what I lack in brainpower, I make up in ignorance.

**Jessa Allen** [00:03:02] Totally (laughs).

**Gary Crawford** [00:03:02] Oh, thank you, well, you tell me then. How should I store my apples Jessa?

**Jessa Allen** [00:03:06] The apples should go in your fridge.

**Matt Hendrickson** [00:03:08] I think that the shelf life is five to seven days. But if you put it in the fridge, it can last up to 1-2 months.

**Gary Crawford** [00:03:14] Wow. One other thing, you know, I was struck with when you guys were showing me pictures of an apple orchard, I expected to see the big tall trees like in the old pictures from way back. But what you see here, far different.

**Jessa Allen** [00:03:28] It's very surprising when you go to a modern orchard. The trees are planted very close together. They're planted on a different root stock that's gonna control the size of the tree. That how you produce the most fruit in a smaller amount of space.

**Gary Crawford** [00:03:40] Yeah much shorter trees. Another thing that maybe some of us didn't know is that picking those apples is a very labor-intensive job. And unlike some crops so far anyway, no mechanical harvesters, right?

**Jessa Allen** [00:03:53] Yes, every apple has handpicked.

**Gary Crawford** [00:03:56] Why hasn't science figured another way to do that?

**Jessa Allen** [00:03:58] They're increasing technology on, you know, like the tractor kind of platforms. Where you can have multiple guys on different levels, going down the aisles and picking. But yeah, I don't think people appreciate how delicate the apple is and how it has to be gently picked and put it in the bin. And it's quiet, it's quite a process that is hard to automate with a machine.

**Gary Crawford** [00:04:15] Wow. Okay. Well, earlier, you know, we talked about gravity. Now it's time for levity. So, we're walking over here to a permanent VegU faculty member here, Chantel Oyi. Builds herself as the resident comedian so Chantel, go for it.

**Chantel Oyi** [00:04:30] How do you make an apple turnover? You push it down the hill.

**Gary Crawford** [00:04:35] Pleased with yourself on that.

**Chantel Oyi** [00:04:38] I have two more.

**Gary Crawford** [00:04:38] Jessa you want to hear those?

**Jessa Allen** [00:04:39] No, not really, I don't.

**Gary Crawford** [00:04:42] Well that settles that. So, to actually find out something useful about apples, go on line to USapple.org, USapple.org, not Ugg, org. This has been agriculture USA. USA. I'm Gary Crawford reporting for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington.