

Apple varieties suitable for organic cultivation in Lithuania

Problem

Organic apple production faces many disease and pest control challenges. While the use of direct control measures is limited, indirect control, such as the choice of robust cultivars, is pivotal. However, only a few winter-hardy varieties, mostly local breeds, are available in Central Europe.

Solution

This practice abstract lists the robust cultivars tolerant to apple scab, powdery mildew, and fire blight that are suitable to the Baltic region.

Benefits

The use of the recommended robust apple cultivars can help to control the main diseases and contribute to the reduction of plant protection applications.

Practical recommendation

- Check information about local cultivars tested at research stations and established orchards. Talk to your retailers. Ask yourself the following questions to choose a suitable variety for your context of production:
 - Do I want to produce table apples or cider apples?
 - Which palette of varieties regarding the taste do I want to offer?
 - Which harvesting times do I want to cover?
 - Do I want to sell the apples to a retailer or direct marketing? If you want to sell to a retailer, check which varieties they accept before planting. If you want to do direct marketing, consider having a broad palette of varieties covering all taste groups and a long selling period.
 - Do I have storage capacities?
- Even cultivars described as scab resistant may develop a scab race that can break down the resistance. Always control apple scab¹ from bud break and at big infections peak in the primary ascospore discharge period.
- Even robust cultivars against apple scab do not significantly reduce the need for treatments. There is always the risk of other diseases, such as sooty blotch.
- List of cultivars for organic apple production suited in Lithuania:
 - Summer cultivars: Alemanda, Poema, Pira, Orlov, Izbranica
 - Autumn cultivars: Rudenis, Vitos, Sava, Aldas
 - Winter cultivars: Skaistis (Picture 1), Freedom, Štaris (Picture 2), Rajka, Rosana, Rubinola, Florina (Picture 3), Pinova, Bosanova (Picture 4)

Applicability box

Theme

Crop production, Horticulture, Temperate fruits

Keywords

Temperate fruits, Disease prevention

Context

Baltic states

Application time

Planting of trees best in autumn



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PRACTICE ABSTRACT



Picture 1: Apple winter cultivar Skaistis of Lithuanian origin. Photo: Fruittechcentre



Picture 2: Apple winter cultivar Štaris of Lithuanian origin. Photo: Fruittechcentre



Picture 3: Apple winter cultivar Florina of French origin. Photo: Dr Juozas Lanauskas, Lithuanian Institute of Horticulture



Picture 4: Apple winter cultivar Bosanova of Lithuanian origin. Photo: Dr Juozas Lanauskas, Lithuanian Institute of Horticulture

Further information

Weblinks

- Recommendations of Lithuanian Research Centre for Agriculture and Forestry, [Apple varieties for organic orchards](#) (in Lithuanian).
- Publication in journal Mano Ūkis, [Apple varieties for organic orchards](#) (in Lithuanian)
- Lithuanian Institute of Horticulture - report on research of [Productivity and fruit quality of scab resistant apple cultivars and hybrids](#). Journal of Fruit and Ornamental Plant Research.
- Lithuanian Institute of Horticulture- report on field trial. [Assessment of apple cultivars for organic fruit cultivation](#).
- Technology Transfer Centre - [list of apple varieties](#) (in Lithuanian, English)
- 1. [Apple scab \(Venturia inaequalis\): Control strategy for organic pome production](#). Practice Abstract, BIOFRUITNET
- Check the Organic Farm Knowledge platform for more practical recommendations.

About this practice abstract

Publisher: Association of Latvian Organic Agriculture
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Permalink: organic-farmknowledge.org/tool/44723

Project name: BIOFRUITNET- Boosting Innovation in ORGANIC FRUIT production through stronger networks

Project website: <https://biofruitnet.eu>

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