Minnesota First Kiss™ Apple

Technology #20110037

Outrageously juicy with a refreshing, snappy zing

The First Kiss™ apple in Minnesota (marketed as Rave® in other parts of the United States) is the brand name for the MN55 apple cultivar bred naturally through cross-pollination (no GMOs). Part Honeycrisp and part MonArk (an early ripening apple from Arkansas), First Kiss apples were bred to have Honeycrisp juiciness and Granny Smith tartness. The apples are 85–100% scarlet red with creamy white flesh. Their very crisp texture along with tart to well-balanced flavor offers an incredible eating experience: First Kiss is “outrageously juicy with a refreshing and snappy zing.”

Early to ripen; extended storage life

The First Kiss apple ripens in August, kicking off Minnesota’s apple season a full month earlier than Honeycrisp. Similarly, the Rave is the first apple to be harvested in Washington, coming off the trees in late July when most apples there don’t harvest in until mid-August or September. In addition, First Kiss demonstrates an unusually long storage life for an early ripening variety, and can last up to 6 months in common storage.

Cold hardy

First Kiss apple trees are currently rated as USDA Hardiness Zone 4 but have not yet been adequately tested in colder areas.

Commercialization and licensing for propagation

First Kiss will be released as a “managed variety.” Minnesota growers may be licensed by the University of Minnesota to grow this variety. After completing UMN licensing, growers may contact licensed nurseries to place orders for tree propagation. Tree orders may be placed only with UMN licensed nurseries. To initiate licensing, please complete the First Kiss Growers Application.

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BENEFITS AND FEATURES:

- Part Honeycrisp and part MonArk
- Honeycrisp juiciness and Granny Smith tartness
- “Outrageously juicy with a refreshing and snappy zing”
- Early to ripen (August in Minnesota)
- Long storage life (up to 6 months in common storage)
- USDA Hardiness Zone 4

APPLICATIONS:

- Apple orchards

Phase of Development - Available

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