



The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association

1473 Water Street, Kelowna, BC V1Y 1J6
Ph: (250) 762 – 5226 • Fax (250) 861 – 9089
E-mail • info@bcfga.com

For immediate release

BC APPLE GROWERS GET NATIONAL RECOGNITION

November 5, 2010 (Kelowna, BC) – Again this year, BC apples were showcased and competed at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair (RAWF) in Toronto, Ontario.

On the first day of the RAWF, awards in the Royal National Apple Competition were announced, and BC growers proudly took home several awards including Jim Campbell from Osoyoos who won the *CHC Trophy* as the winner of the New Varieties Section. Other winners include:

Commercial Varieties

Class: Gala

- 1st Karmjit & Balvir Gill
- 3rd Enio Leardo

Class: Golden Delicious

- 3rd Enio Leardo

Class: Spartan

- 1st Enio Leardo
- 2nd Harjinder Brar

New Varieties

Class: Ambrosia

- 1st Devin Jell, Gartrell Heritage Farms
- 2nd Jim Campbell
- 3rd Joe Sardinha, Sardinha Orchards

Class: Aurora Golden Gala

- 1st Jim Campbell
- 2nd Fred & Phyllis Nelson, Nelsons Fruit Work
- 3rd Devin Jell, Gartrell Heritage Farms

Class: Other

- 1st Enio Leardo (Nicola)
- 2nd Jamie Kidston (Nicola)
- 3rd Germaine & Robert Hogue, Roseridge Orchards (Pink Lady)

Class: Champion & Reserve

- 1st Devin Jell, Gartrell heritage Farms
 2nd Jim Campbell

Best Collection of 5 Varieties

- 1st Tarsem Dhoot
 3rd Joe Sardinha, Sardinha Orchards

Heaviest Apples

- 3rd Tristan Mennell, Mennell Brothers Organics

Growers entered their apples to the competition by submitting them in five distinct categories: heritage, new and commercial varieties, as well as best collection of any five varieties, and heaviest apple. Apples were nicely displayed for the competition where they were judged according to several criterias.

“Over the last three years, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair has proved to be a great venue in showcasing Canadian apples and the amazing work Canadian growers do”, stated Joe Sardinha, President of the BC Fruit Growers’ Association. “As President of the BC Fruit Growers’ Association, I am also extremely proud of how successful BC growers were in capturing many categories in the Royal National Apple Competition again this year, proving that BC apples are second to none.”

The BC Fruit Growers’ Association represents the over 801 commercial growers in BC, with a mandate “to foster a business environment for the long-term prosperity of BC tree fruit growers”. The BC tree fruit industry generates over \$130 million in fresh fruit sales annually at the wholesale level, with a further \$120 million in sales from Sun-Rype, the main processor of fruit in the Okanagan.

-30-

For more information:

Glen Lucas
 General Manager
 BC Fruit Growers’ Association
 Telephone: (250)762-5226 x 23

Josée Larocque
 Public Relations and Events Coordinator
 BC Fruit Growers’ Association
 Telephone: (250)762-5226 x 24

BACKGROUNDER

Apple Varieties Descriptions

Commercial Apple Varieties Section

- Gala The Gala resulted from crossing Kidd's Orange Red (Cox's Orange Pippin X Delicious) and Golden Delicious. It is medium sized, round-conical in shape with yellow skin flushed with red stripes. The rich honeyed tasting flesh is cream colored. Taste is variable depending on the growing conditions. It is picked in late September and keeps in storage until early January.
- Golden Delicious This apple is of medium size, oblong-conical, yellow with russet dots with crisp, firm, juicy flesh, which holds its shape when cooked. Trees need a long growing season for the fruit to mature well. The apple is unrelated to the Red Delicious. It is picked in mid-to-late October and keeps in storage until February.
- Spartan This apple is medium sized, round-conical with dark red skin covered with a purplish-bloom. The white flesh is fine, crisp and juicy developing excellent flavor even in poor growing conditions. The apple has an unusually small core and the fruit tends to be small if allowed to overcrop. It is picked in early October and keeps in ordinary cold storage until January.

New Apple Varieties Section

- Ambrosia This fruit has a bright pink blush over a cream background. It is medium sized, crisp, juicy, with a sweet honeyed flavor. This dessert apple is gaining in popularity because of its excellent flavor and appearance and, especially for growers, its productivity. It does not grow well in damp coastal areas. It also doesn't brown. It is picked in the Okanagan in late September and keeps four months in regular cold storage.
- Aurora Golden Gala This apple originated from a cross of Splendour and Gala. It is bright yellow with the Gala shape and size. The flesh is cream colored, extremely crisp and juicy, with a sweet and light flavor. The tree is highly productive. It is picked in Summerland in the first week in October, but the flavor improves with storage. It is best November through March in regular cold storage.
- Nicola This apple is a cross of Splendour, Gala and Aurora Golden Gala. It is a dessert apple appropriate for medium to long term storage and has excellent shelf life. The fruit is large with a round-conic shape. It has a yellow ground cover with red blush. The fruit has sweet, crisp, juicy cream-colored flesh. Picking is in October. Fruit needs 4 to 6 weeks in storage for proper flavor development.
- Pink Lady A cross between a Golden Delicious and Lady Williams, the fruit is medium to large in size, and oblong-conical in shape with prominent ribbing, with an attractive appearance of bright pink blush overlying a yellow background. Pink Lady has superb eating qualities: the flesh is white and firm-textured with a sweet-tart flavor. It needs a long growing season to ripen fully. Picked in late October, it keeps until February.