

Discover the Orchards

Behind the cooperative extension building is the demonstration orchard. To this point there have been 40 different apple trees. Many are of commonly known varieties such as Honeycrisp and Fuji. Many others are less common such as Bramley's Seedling, Belle de Boscoop, Arkansas Black and others you probably have not heard of. We are currently adding another row of apple varieties chosen specifically for cider production. The best cider will contain four types of apples. They are chosen for sweetness, tartness, bitterness, and aroma. In a couple years we'll be able to see how it worked out.

Look for:

- New baby trees. Four of the old trees (deceased) were replaced with fresh, healthy trees of the same original variety. The old Arkansas Black died because a gopher ate its roots. Gopher traps are now deployed.
- There is a new row of baby trees specifically chosen for cider production. Their attributes are tartness, sweetness, aroma and bitterness. All four combine to make the best cider.
- There is a codling moth trap after bloom. This is for monitoring the pest and timing anti-moth measures.

Garden Tips:

- Before new buds appear in the spring, prune last year's new growth to an inch or two. Also prune out crossing branches to allow airflow throughout the tree.
- When the new fruit appears, it will probably need to be thinned to about 6 inches apart. Closer together than that will mean smaller fruit and too much weight on the branches, which could break.
- We are required by law to control for codling moth. Fortunately the spray CYD-X uses a virus that attacks ONLY codling moth and is completely safe for humans, pets and bees.

