

STAMFORD APPLES

Allington Pippin

This variety was raised by Thomas Laxton before 1884 and known as South Lincolnshire Pippin. In 1889 it was exhibited as South Lincoln Beauty by W&J Brown of Stamford at the Royal Horticultural Society, and won a First Class Certificate. It was later introduced by Messrs. G Bunyard in 1896 as Allington Pippin.

Allington Pippin is a cross between Cox's Orange Pippin and King of the Pippins, so it has a crunchy texture and a rich aromatic flavour that develops with keeping. The attractively striped fruit is of medium size and will also cook well, keeping its shape. Pick mid October and use for eating late November to early January. The crop is heavy, but can be biennial, unless thinned. The trees are moderately vigorous, upright-spreading and spur-bearing, making a lot of young growth.

Schoolmaster

Believed to be raised around 1855 from a seed of an imported Canadian apple in either Old Stamford Grammar School garden or in Herefordshire. Introduced by Thomas Laxton and received a First Class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society in 1880. This apple cooks to a white froth or puree and has a good fruity brisk taste. Spur bearing in habit. Pick mid October and store through to January.

Lord Burghley

Reputed to be found as a seedling on waste ground near the Marquis of Exeter's gardens at Burghley Park, near Stamford. It first fruited in 1834 but was only introduced thirty years later in 1865 by Mr Matheson, the Head Gardener of the Estate, the same year in which it won a First Class Certificate from the Royal Horticultural Society. The variety was subsequently distributed by the nursery of Mr House of Peterborough and was widely grown in the 19th century. A handsome, crisp, juicy eating apple, with aromatic flesh and decorative deep red skin. Bunyard considered it one of the best eating apples. Fruits on spurs. Pick mid October, ready to eat from January; it stores very well until April or even May!

Browns' Seedling

Raised before 1874 by W&J Brown, nurserymen of Stamford, Lincolnshire with a shop in the High Street and a nursery at Wothrope. Mainly tip bearing. Pick mid October, use as a cooker when it produces a bright lemon puree but if kept until December or January it has a sweet, rich and good flavour as an eating apple.

Peasgood's Nonsuch

This wonderful apple has a fascinating local history. The first tree started as a pip sown around 1858 by the father of Emma Mamby in Grantham. In 1865 Emma married John Peasgood, who had a drapers shop in Stamford High Street. She brought her little apple tree with her and planted it in their new garden, possibly in Bath Row, near the River Welland. The tree did not flower until 1872 but produced such large and showy apples that on 6th September 1872, the firstfruits were shown and won the first prize in class "of a basket of apples" at the Burghley Park Agricultural Show. Five of these same apples went to London on 18th September 1872 and won a RHS First Class Certificate. The Fruit Committee proclaimed it "*One of the most handsome apples in cultivation*", and "*...took the liberty of naming it Peasgood's Nonsuch*". [Meaning a person or thing regarded as excellent or perfect.]

Largely spur bearing. Ready to pick mid September. It cooks to a sweet and delicately flavoured puree or as a generous baked apple. Sweetly juicy but sharp with a very good flavour when uncooked, good in vegetable salads. Keeps until Christmas.

Barnack Beauty

This apple started in 1840 in a cottage garden at Barnack near Stamford, where the original tree, although a veteran, continues to grow healthily. The Burghley House Head Gardener, Mr Richard Gilbert, wrote in the Stamford Mercury on 17th November 1877, "*Beauty of Barnack ... is the best user, the best keeper and the best bearer of any apple of my acquaintance...*" with Browns of Stamford introducing it for sale in 1880 and by 1899 it won the RHS First Class Certificate as Barnack Beauty.

A late dessert apple - juicy, crunchy and with an intense flavour. It may also be used for cooking, when it slowly softens to reveal a very rich flavour. Pick late October or early November and use from December onwards until March or April. Strong growing, spreading tree, decorative blossom and bears fruit on both spurs and tips. It is said to be one of the best varieties for chalk soil, though it is always the rootstock that has to contend with particular soils.

To learn more about our work to rediscover and preserve Stamford's apples visit www.scog.org.uk or to grow these or other varieties www.applesandorchards.org.uk