

Honeycrisp

<i>Malus pumila</i> 'Honeycrisp'	
	
Honeycrisp apple	
<u>Species</u>	<i>Malus pumila</i>
<u>Hybrid parentage</u>	'Keepsake' × Unknown ^[1]
<u>Cultivar</u>	'Honeycrisp'
<u>Origin</u>	 Minneapolis-St. Paul Minnesota , 1960

Honeycrisp (*Malus pumila* 'Honeycrisp') is an [apple cultivar](#) (cultivated variety) developed at the [Minnesota Agricultural Experiment Station's Horticultural Research Center](#) at the [University of Minnesota, Twin Cities](#). Designated in 1974 with the MN 1711 test designation, patented in 1988, and released in 1991, the Honeycrisp, once slated to be discarded, has rapidly become a prized commercial [commodity](#), as its sweetness, firmness, and tartness make it an ideal apple for eating raw.^[2] It has much larger cells than most apples, which rupture when bitten to fill the mouth with juice.^[3] The Honeycrisp also retains its [pigment](#) well and boasts a relatively long [shelf life](#) when stored in cool, dry conditions.^[4] The name Honeycrisp was trademarked by the University of Minnesota, but university officials were unsure of its protection status in 2007.^[5]

Contents

[hide]

- [1 Genetics](#)
- [2 Agriculture](#)
- [3 International growth](#)
- [4 In culture](#)
- [5 See also](#)
- [6 References](#)

Genetics[[edit](#)]

U.S. Plant Patent 7197 and Report 225-1992 (AD-MR-5877-B) from the Horticultural Research Center indicated that the Honeycrisp was a [hybrid](#) of the apple cultivars '[Macoun](#)' and '[Honeygold](#)'.^[2] However, [genetic fingerprinting](#) conducted by a group of researchers in 2004, which included those who were attributed on the US plant patent, determined that neither of these cultivars is a parent of the 'Honeycrisp', but that the 'Keepsake' (another apple developed by the same [University of Minnesota crossbreeding](#) program) is one of the parents. The other parent has not been identified, but it might be a numbered selection that could have been discarded since.^[1]

The US patent for the 'Honeycrisp' cultivar expired in 2008, though patent protection in some countries continues until as late as 2031.^[5] Patent royalties had generated more than \$10 million by 2011, split three ways by the University of Minnesota between its inventors, the college and department in which the research was conducted, and a fund for other research.^{[3][5]} The University of Minnesota crossed Honeycrisp with another of their apple varieties, '[Minnewasheta](#)' (brand name Zestar!), to create a hybrid called '[Minneiska](#)' (brand name SweeTango),^[6] released as a *managed variety* to control how and where it can be grown and sold.^[3]

Agriculture[[edit](#)]

Honeycrisp apple flowers are self-sterile, so another apple variety must be nearby as a pollinizer in order to get fruit. Most other apple varieties will pollinize Honeycrisp, as will varieties of [crabapple](#).^[7] Honeycrisp will not come true when grown from seed. Trees grown from the seeds of Honeycrisp apples will be hybrids of Honeycrisp and the pollinizer.^[2]

Young trees typically have a lower density of large, well-colored fruit, while mature trees have higher fruit density of fruit with diminished size and color quality.^[8] Fruit density can be adjusted through removal of blossom clusters or young fruit to counteract the effect.^[8] Flesh firmness is also generally better with lower crop densities.^[8]