

Skinny Apple Trees Convenient For Home Growers

Plants Nouveau has partnered with plant breeders to release a new form of fruit tree designed for streamlined harvest. These "Fruit Snacks™" are dwarf skinny apple trees that need minimal pruning. Each tree grows approximately 8 to 10 ft. tall and produces fruit in a single column. They flower mid-season and are good pollinators for other varieties.

As a creative and intellectual plant resource, Plants Nouveau aims to give worldwide recognition to new and noteworthy plant varieties. In a way, it works as a breeder's agent to bring novel plants to market. Plants Nouveau navigates the introduction process, helps breeders secure patents and trademarks, and markets the plants to the proper audiences. "We work with a group in Oregon called Varieties International," says Angela Treadwell-Palmer, Plants Nouveau founder. "They work with fruit breeders all over the world to select fruits for commercial production in North America." Today, the company represents nearly fifty plant breeders and 400 plant introductions.

The surprisingly productive Fruit Snacks™ trees come in four varieties so far: Blushing Delight, Golden Treat, Tanga Green, and Tasty Red. Two more (Sweet Treat and All Red) will be released in the upcoming months. Golden Treat apples are crisp, firm, and tart, perfect for cheese plates or pies. Blushing Delight produces pale red fruit in the early fall that is sweet, light, and flavorful for fresh eating. Tanga Green has an acidic tang that's perfect for baking. Finally, Tasty Red has a sweeter, juicier flavor and is a heavy producer that keeps well in storage.

Fruit Snacks™ apple trees are ideal for small spaces and grow well in pots. They can be planted close together to form hedge



Narrow trees are ideal for small spaces and grow well in pots.

rows and are cold-hardy, rust-resistant, and virtually virus-free. The variety was designed for casual fruit growers intimidated at the thought of pruning a traditional apple tree. "While these trees can produce a good many apples, they are still best for homeowners, not commercial growers," says Treadwell-Palmer. Growers must plant at least two different trees for pollination purposes.

It's possible to purchase Fruit Snacks™ trees from Stark Brothers, Fast Growing Trees, Nature Hills, and Guernesey Seed online. Prices and names vary by retailer.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Plants Nouveau, Box 40125, Mobile, Ala. 36640 (angela@plantsnouveau.com; www.plantsnouveau.com).

Fast-growing InnovaTrees use their extensive root systems to pull contaminants like sulfates and heavy metals out of soil and water, breaking these impurities down into less harmful forms.



Fast Growing Trees Pull Pollutants From Soil, Water

Dane Hauser of Superior View Farm, Wis., has discovered that he can't keep the popular InnovaTree from flying off the shelves at his greenhouses.

The unique fast-growing trees are naturally hybridized, resulting from cross-pollination and selective breeding between native eastern cottonwoods and the European black poplar. They're easy to grow, have few insect problems, and must be well watered.

The trees are suited for the Midwest region but would grow in other areas with sandy, well-drained soil.

Due to their incredible growth rates of up to 8 ft. per year, they were originally grown for their wood fiber and lumber. More recently, other desirable properties like pollution remediation have come to light.

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harmful forms.

"They establish themselves quickly, and literally help clean the environment of unwanted material because they consume so much water," says Hauser. "They're great for natural screens, highways, and burned-out areas, plus they don't produce the annoying cotton."

With their high growth rates, they've also been shown to target carbon sequestration, gathering CO2 and pumping out oxygen.

Hauser has been growing the InnovaTree for 3 years and is aiming to sell between 2,000 and 3,000 in 2-gal. pots this year once his backorders are filled.

He plans to offer cuttings of 6 to 12 in. for \$0.90 to \$1.10 per stick and 6 to 7 ft. high potted trees for \$30 each.

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Steve Yackley repainted four Farmall tractors and his father's Ford 4600 tractor.

He Keeps Restoring Despite Health Issues

The popular saying "you can't keep a good man down" certainly applies to Steve Yackley. In his mid-70's, retired from farming and running a business, Yackley thought his number was up in the early spring of 2023. Fluid was building in his lungs, he'd already gone through a quadruple bypass, his heart was supported by a pacemaker, he'd dealt with stage 3 congestive kidney disease and bladder cancer, recovered from a stroke, had developed Parkinson's, and was plugged into oxygen 24 hours a day.

Yackley and his wife sold their Arizona home and moved back to Minnesota to face the inevitable. But Yackley's wife Judy and longtime friends know he's not a quitter. "I was just too darn stubborn to have it all end like this; I had to have a project and a purpose," Yackley says.

On a cold March morning over coffee, he began thinking about his dad's Ford 4600 tractor and wondered if he could give it new life. He thought it was worth a try, so Yackley bought a small building in Canby, Minn., and recruited his wife to help him insulate it, paint the walls, and create a workspace. "I worked on the Ford for a week or so, and then a cold snap set in, so I had to take the tin to my basement for painting," Yackley says with a solid note of determination. Judy recalls going downstairs a few days later to see blue paint everywhere, but the metal

looked amazing.

"I really enjoyed getting that Ford looking brand new, so I decided I'd find old tractors that I'd used on the farm and give those new lives too," Yackley says. "I bought a Farmall 560 like the one I used to farm with back in the 70's. Next was a Farmall 706, an 806, and then a 1206. Judy says the basement eventually had shades of red over blue, however, the tractors all look brand new and are in tip-top running condition.

His repainted tractor collection has caught the eye of locals in his small town, and he's also shown them at the nearby Porter Harvest Festival.

Yackley says when he finished painting the 5th tractor, he'd learned new painting techniques and will probably re-do the Ford and the 560. "I feel blessed even though I've endured so many health challenges, but the good Lord keeps bringing me back, so there must be more to do," he says.

His brother-in-law has an International 1466 that he'd like painted, so Yackley may tackle that one next. Judy, for her part, says, "His shed is full, so that should be enough, but you know, we'll be married for 60 years in January 2024; I know he's stubborn and persistent, so he'll probably do more."

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Gardening Tool Reduces Back Strain

Avid gardener Neil Bevilacqua suffered a catastrophic hand injury, which inspired him to create a one-handed gardening tool.

The EarthLifter Tool's ergonomic design makes gardening and landscaping easier while reducing back and shoulder strain. By using downward force and the built-in fulcrum, it lifts weeds completely and pulls rocks out easily with less effort than with traditional tools.

Reviewer John T. says, "We have a small vegetable garden, and tilling the soil between plantings has always been a chore. I was amazed when I tried the EarthLifter at how easy it was to break up the soil and aerate it. I won't need to rent a rototiller anymore."

The EarthLifter Tool is made in the U.S. and is available on the company website for \$174.95.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, EarthLifter Tool (info@earthlifter.com; www.earthlifter.com).



EarthLifter lifts weeds and rocks with less effort than traditional tools.



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