

New fruit is exciting to look at and full of flavour



JUICY: Redlove apple.

# Red apple really is something special

**THIS week, as it's still snowy and only just melting, I thought you may want to know what everyone is talking about.**

It's a new apple that has red skin and red flesh, too. It's quite remarkable-looking and does resemble a red water melon but it is apple through and through.

If I was asked what I want from a new apple, I would say it has to be exciting to look at, be a heavy cropper, good on disease and full-flavour. It must also have a great texture and be great for cooking.

Well, read on as this apple has all of this and more, and will be an instant hit, I am sure.

Markus Kobelt, who owns Lubera Nursery in a place called Buchs, near Lake Constance in Switzerland, is the man behind the new apple. Kobelt worked with breeding programmes in Germany and the Czech Republic to cross the apples

and produce one with red flesh. It's taken many years but he has finally done it and done it in style.

Kobelt knew a new variety of apple wouldn't just have to look good, but would have to be a great eating apple and, with Kobelt always striving to produce something special, the red apple was born.

Kobelt said: "It's exciting to be the first on the market with good and acceptable fruit quality." And not only is this apple good, but the apples are high in antioxidants and do not go brown when they are cut or used in cooking. Even the juice stays red.

They have been grown with exceptional resistance to scab, are said to be crisp, juicy and have a berry/apple mixed taste. I just can't wait to try them.

Also, and it's a big also, they flower with a deep pink and long-lasting flower.

Can this get any better?

These apples are grown on an M9 root stock, which means the largest they will grow will be approximately 2.5m or 8ft tall.

If you grow one in a container they won't get so big, and of course you should prune them once a year anyway, so you can keep them small if you wish.

They are not self-fertile, so you will have to grow them near other apple trees, but I am told they could be up to 300m away.

This autumn, the very first 60,000 to 100,000 Redlove trees have been planted in commercial orchards in Switzerland, Italy, France and the UK, so we will soon be seeing them on the shelves of our local fruit and vegetable shops.

Suttons seeds have the exclusive sale rights in the UK, so you can visit [www.suttons.co.uk](http://www.suttons.co.uk) and look for Redlove apples. Or you can

call them on 0844 9220606 - it's a 24-hour ordering line.

One tree will cost you £24.95, but they have an offer of buying two trees for £40. Supermarkets are desperate to get their hands on the red flesh apple and Suttons have orders for more than 1,500 trees.

What I think is really good is the fact that apple trees will be planted with some excitement all over the UK and, as Alan Titchmarsh said to me recently, "Keep on growing and enjoying it", which is just what a new variety like this one will do for everybody.

So even though it is still snowy outside and set to get colder again this week, just think like I do of a warm apple pie with red-flesh apples in it and a good helping of Roe's double cream from their farm in Barrow Haven.

John Cavill - [www.simplygardening.co.uk](http://www.simplygardening.co.uk) or call 01652 632745.