

Really red!

It's rare for a new fruit variety to be a real innovation, but 'Redlove', new from Suttons, is something completely different. A red-fleshed apple which retains its colour on cooking and does not go brown when sliced, it is exceptionally high in beneficial anthocyanins – up to 13 times higher than a normal red-skinned apple. A crisp, juicy dessert apple which is also good for juicing and cooking (make red apple juice and rose-coloured apple pie!), 'Redlove' has a good sweet-sharp balance and a flavour with 'berry' notes. It ripens from early to mid September and will store until January – and it also has very ornamental deep purple-pink blossom.



- A one-year-old bare-root plant of 'Redlove Era' or 'Redlove Sirena' costs £24.95. To order, call **0844 922 0606** or visit www.suttons.co.uk

How to... force chicory



- Sow the seed of a forcing variety between May and July. Avoid too rich a soil as this causes forked roots.

Forced 'chicons' are milder than outdoor chicory, and great for adding variety to winter salads

- Lift the roots in November. Trim the leaves to within 2.5cm (1") of the roots, and trim the roots to 15cm (6"). Store the roots in boxes of damp sand.
- Take out three or four roots at a time and pack them into a large pot filled with potting compost, with the crowns just visible. Water lightly.
- Cover the pot with an inverted pot, with its drainage holes blocked to exclude light. Put the pots somewhere with a temperature of 10 to 18°C (50-64°F).
- Inspect the pots every few days and water if the compost is dry.
- After three or four weeks, a chicon should have grown from each root. Cut these off at the base and cover the roots again; they should sprout a second, smaller crop of loose leaves.

Feed the birds!



Roofed Window Bird Feeder Get up close and personal with the birds of your garden and beyond with this attractive and colourful window bird feeder. Simply stick to the outside of any convenient window for a great way for the family to see garden birds from the comfort of your home. The feeder is constructed from FSC timber and comes with an attractive blue roof and stainless steel removable feeding bowl.

- Dimensions H27 x W17 x D11cm. **£9.95**
www.ethicalsuperstore.com
Tel: 0845 00 99 016

Apple Bird Feeder Encourage your fine feathered friends with this hanging bird feeder in coffee bean. All you need is an apple and a tree! Makes an original gift for bird-lovers and garden-lovers alike. You can also replace the apple with a fat ball during the colder months.

- Size: 20cm high, **£9.99** from **£12.99**
The Contemporary Home www.tch.net
Tel: 02392 469400

