

Name the apple contest

And the winner is... Eden

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More than 75 inventive entries later, AAFC's newest apple has a new name: Eden.

In the Summer/Fall issue of *AgriCulture*, **Dr. Shahrokh Khanizadeh** launched a contest to find a name for his new non-browning apple, formerly known as 'SJCA38R6A74'.

The researcher and his team at the Horticulture Research and Development Centre in Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, in collaboration with AAFC staff in Guelph and Summerland, developed the new apple primarily for use in salads, dried apple chips and juice. The apples also have a ready-made market in fast-food restaurants offering them in children's snacks.

"I am very pleased with both the quality and inventiveness of the submissions to name this apple," Dr. Khanizadeh said. The Eden name — submitted by four separate AAFC employees — was chosen by a team of Dr. Khanizadeh's colleagues.

The winners are: **Claude Richer, Yvon Groleau, Audrey Levasseur** and **Carmen Beldica**. Winners receive a colourful poster featuring AAFC apples.

Other entries included Apple Crisp, Arctic Snow, Bella Blanca, Blanche neige, Canadian Blushing Beauty, Cristal Snow, Enduring Sunrise, Everwhite, La Cardinal Richelieu, Montblanc, Nordica, Polar, Robust Red, Ruby Fresh, Snow Owl, Snow Sweet, Sparkle Crisp and Winter Whiter Red Apple.

The apple now known as Eden is aromatic, sweet, juicy, firm and crisp, but its claim to fame is its resistance to browning, most likely due to low levels of the compounds that cause browning in apples. The only existing cultivar that shows less browning after cutting is Cortland, second in popularity only to the McIntosh with Canadian consumers.

In laboratory tests, the new apple remained crisp with no signs of browning after two or three days at room temperature and it didn't fall from the tree after maturity, making it an excellent candidate for Ice Cider production. It will remain fresh in cold storage for up to five months.

Eden fruit are medium to large size, averaging about 150 grams on non-thinned trees. The fruit skin has an average thickness, mainly washed red to dark red, fading at the edges, with a little marbling and striping, over greenish-yellow. The fruit matures in early October. The apple originated from a cross made in 1970 between the varieties 'Linda' and 'Jonathan'.

A Canadian Plant Breeders' Right has been issued and the trees will be available from licensed nurseries in Quebec. Non exclusive multiplication licenses can be obtained from the AAFC Office of Intellectual Property and Commercialization.



The Eden apple, left, stays fresh longer than other breeds.