**Apples**

**Planting Specifications**
- 12-15' semi dwarf
- Native to Central Asia
- Varieties: Enterprise, Pristine, William's Pride, Redfree, Liberty, Sundance
- No wet feet, prefers well-drained soil
- Must have at least two different varieties for cross pollination
- At initial planting, we recommend planting allium companion plants (like chives) to deter pests

**Top Pests to Look Out For**
*Other diseases or pests may be present, but these are the ones most commonly found in St. Louis.*
- **Codling Moth and Oriental Fruit Moth:** Eat the fruit from the inside, small and gray/brown in color
  *Treatment:* Bt inclusion in 4th holistic spray, Bt sprays, sunflower companion planting
- **Apple Maggot Fly:** Eat the fruit from the inside, small beige worms
  *Treatment:* Apple maggot sticky traps
- **Fire Blight:** Bacterial disease, identified by black curled leaves, flowers, and branches
  *Treatment:* Removing diseased plant material, Monterey Complete Disease Control as a preventative

**Gateway Greening Classes and Resources**
- **Holistic Sprays** - Recipes and ingredients available to Giving Grove projects
- **Apple Maggot Traps and Tanglefoot glue,** **Monterey Complete Disease Control, Bacillus thuringiensis (Bt)** - Available for purchase from our Gateway Greening Store
- **Orchard Classes** - Summer Pruning, Dormant Fruit Tree Pruning, Pest and Disease Management, and Harvest. Schedules available on our website and Facebook page
- **Companion plant recommendations** - handout available on website

**Timeline of Care**

**Spring Care**
- Application of four holistic sprays (liquid fish, pure neem oil, effective microbes) every few weeks once leaves start emerging and ending once fruits have formed (Late February to Mid-May)
- Complete the big yearly pruning and remove any branches infected by fireblight prior to foliage appearing (Late February to Mid-March)
- Remove any tree wraps placed in winter (Early April)
- For the first three Springs, remove all fruitlets to prevent fruit production (Late April to Early May)
- After three Springs, thin the fruits so that there is only the two largest fruitlets per cluster (Prior to fourth holistic spray)
- Place Apple Maggot Traps. (Mid-May)

**Summer Care**
- Complete a second thinning of the fruitlets so that there is the best fruitlet per cluster, one every 5 inches (June)
- Periodically check Apple Maggot traps, clean and replace glue when needed (June to August)
- Summer prune your apple trees to increase sun penetration and improve color, ideally during a dry period (August)

**Fall Care**
- Harvest when fruits are ready! (September through November)
- While harvesting, remove any mummified fruits and dispose of them outside of the orchard to prevent disease spread (September through November)
- Cut back or harvest allium companion plant (September through November)
- Gather all apple maggot traps, clean and store for the next year (Mid-October to November)
- Remove or shred all fallen leaves to prevent diseases from spreading (Mid-October to November)
- Fifth holistic spray once all leaves have been disposed of (November)
- Install tree wraps to protect trees from rabbits and voles (Late November)
- Apply a new layer of mulch to the base of the tree (November)

**Ongoing Care**
- During the first full growing season, water 5 gallons per plant per week, with the exception of weeks with substantial rain. After the first year, trees only need to be watered during droughts
- Weed the mulch ring
- Plant any desired companion plants to benefit the orchard ecosystem (Spring or Fall)
- Scout for pests and remove any fallen or diseased fruit