

# APPLE NAMING CONTEST

*What do you call an apple that doesn't taste like any other apple you've tasted?*

No, it's not a riddle. It's a call for help in naming one of the University of Minnesota's newest apples, MN 447. "Years ago we determined that it would probably not be released because it's not a classically beautiful apple and its taste was so unusual!" explains David Bedford, apple breeder for the University of Minnesota. "What it does have going for it is the cold-hardiness to thrive in Zone 3 where very few good quality apples can be grown. We're seeing it as a niche variety for cold climates but also an unusual fruit for more southern home gardeners (zones 4-6)."

So, what about that flavor? It's been called "a massively flavored dessert apple – not for the faint of heart," as well as tropical, aromatic, sweet, molasses-y, complex – like sugarcane, and strangely reminiscent of Hawaiian Punch. The coloring is also distinctive – dark red to maroon over a yellow-gold background, often with a dappled appearance and sometimes russeted.

It's a round, smaller-than-average apple (about 2½ inches in diameter) with crisp, juicy flesh, cream to pale yellow in color.

A few more clues: Although its parentage is unknown, MN 447 has been used extensively in the breeding program to develop other apples; it is one of the parents of Sweet 16 and the Keepsake apple, and a grandparent of Honeycrisp.

If any of this prompts a burst of creativity and you think you have the perfect name for this new apple, complete the entry form below and mail or bring your idea into the visitor center next time you're at the Arboretum. (Want to see what others have suggested? The names on the list below were proposed last fall by a small group of tasters.) Should your entry be selected, you'll receive a certificate for bragging rights and a basket of this utterly unique apple.\*

*\*A committee will review all submissions; final decision rests with the Department of Horticultural Science.*

Mail to: L. Cooney  
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Bring to: Oswald Visitor Center next  
time you're at the  
Arboretum.

## APPLE NAMING CONTEST ENTRY FORM

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Arboretum Member?  No  Yes (Member # \_\_\_\_\_)

Best Apple Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*(your own idea, or pick a name from the list below)*

*Tropical Blizzard*  
*Tropical Punch*  
*Arctic Blast*  
*Arctic Oasis*

*Polar Picnic*  
*Northern Nugget*  
*Hardy Tropical Punch*  
*Tundra Crunch*

*Nordic Delight*  
*Sugar Cane*  
*Cold Snap*  
*Iceberg*

*Borealis*  
*Picnic*  
*Yum Yum*