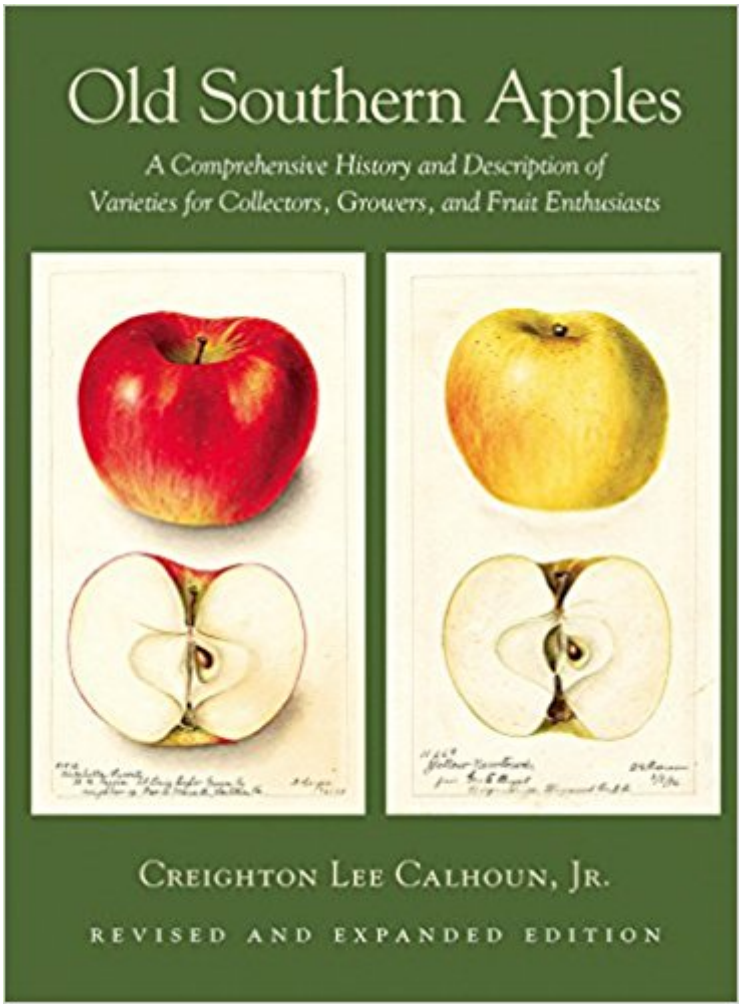
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Old Southern Apples: A Comprehensive History And Description Of Varieties For Collectors, Growers, And Fruit Enthusiasts, 2nd Edition




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Synopsis

A book that became an instant classic when it first appeared in 1995, Old Southern Apples is an indispensable reference for fruit lovers everywhere, especially those who live in the southern United States. Out of print for several years, this newly revised and expanded edition now features descriptions of some 1,800 apple varieties that either originated in the South or were widely grown there before 1928. Author Lee Calhoun is one of the foremost figures in apple conservation in America. This masterwork reflects his knowledge and personal experience over more than thirty years, as he sought out and grew hundreds of classic apples, including both legendary varieties (like Nickajack and Magnum Bonum) and little-known ones (like Buff and Cullasaga). Representing our common orchard heritage, many of these apples are today at risk of disappearing from our national table. Illustrated with more than 120 color images of classic apples from the National Agricultural LibraryÃ¢â ¬â„¢s collection of watercolor paintings, Old Southern Apples is a fascinating and beautiful reference and gift book. In addition to A-to-Z descriptions of apple varieties, both extant and extinct, Calhoun provides a brief history of apple culture in the South, and includes practical information on growing apples and on their traditional uses.

Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

Publisher: Chelsea Green Publishing; Revised and expanded second edition edition (January 20, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1603582940

ISBN-13: 978-1603582940

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1.3 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #634,189 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #79 inÃ Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > By Region > South #162 inÃ Â Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Gardening & Landscape Design > Fruit #447 inÃ Â Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Gardening

Customer Reviews

"Lee Calhoun’s first edition of Old Southern Apples did much to bring the forgotten fruits of Appalachia and the Piedmont to the attention of heritage food conservationists. But this new edition

is so stunning that it will serve to keep these horticultural and culinary treasures in circulation for at least another century."--Gary Nabhan, author of Coming Home to Eat and coauthor of Renewing America’s Food Traditions "Apples beloved in America’s past are making a comeback thanks to the work of crotchety apple growers like Lee Calhoun. His passion for seeking out the lore behind varieties like Barker’s Liner and the humongous Gloria Mundi can only be described as tenacious. Much like a grandfather apple tree still offering its gifts from aside an abandoned cellar hole, Lee stands true with honest assessments of many classic heirlooms. The renewal of apple culture across Appalachia starts with getting this outstanding book!"--Michael Phillips, author of The Apple Grower: A Guide for the Organic Orchardist

Lee Calhoun lives in Chatham County, North Carolina, where he settled after a career in the military. Over the past three decades he has sought out many old-time Southern apples and has grown more than 550 varieties himself. For many years he operated, along with his wife, Edith, Calhoun Nursery, which was a key resource for rare and regional apple varieties.

This is a very thorough work on old apples grown in the south. The first four chapters provide some information on apple cultivation history and uses. The remaining chapters are an encyclopedic listing of existing and (believed) extinct southern apples. As the author notes, it’s not a book you can turn to in order to easily identify the apple variety growing on an old homestead, unless you have some idea of possible names: there are a lot of tart red apples that ripen in September (for example). However, for reference purposes it’s invaluable, and it is also very useful if you are planning to plant some heritage apple trees and want to learn about their characteristics--flavor, form, distribution, ripening date, and in some cases, disease resistance. The new edition has a large number of color illustrations (it’s interesting that the USDA had artists who painted apples way back when); these depict both existing and extinct varieties. It’s well worth the full sticker price, and is a bargain at anything less.

This is a lovely and satisfying book: knowing the history of our old apples is priceless, so I’m grateful for Mr. Calhoun’s assiduous efforts. The inclusion of the rare Department of Agriculture watercolors of many of the older varieties makes the book a must-have for those who value beautiful botanical art. Mr. Calhoun dedicates the work to his beloved wife, Edith, who was his companion in research travels as, apparently, in all other things, and who, as he says poignantly, lived long enough to hold the revised version in her hands. I am so sorry for his loss, and so grateful that we nonetheless

have this, his and Edith’s gift to all of us.

Lee is truly an apple expert! Our forefathers would have loved to have this book as an addition to their library.My hope is that Chatham County will soon recognize, the true treasure they have in Lee, and establish an Orchard in his honor.The new agriculture center grounds would be a good start.My guess is, the humble Calhoun, would prefer anyone reading this review to plant heirloom apples.Check out www.centuryfarmorchards.com for a good start.(I have no connections but I believe Lee trusted him with his collection)My wish is to soon ,cross paths with Lee, to get him to sign my book.This book is a true treasure!

Wow! You would never know the thousands of varieties of apples available and how production of small orchards really made up the South. If you are a history buff (not even into apples) you will reallt enjoy this book.

I think this book needs to be in every school library for children to see how many old southern apples were lost due to lack of education on grafting. This book is just as informational as the first edition but has a few more pictures and alot more descriptions of apples that were thought to be extinct. This book should be sold for years to come and hopefully more people will be interested in saving these old apples, for our future generations to enjoy. I fully recommend this book to everyone who is interested in history and preserving our heritage. Just because an apple is not pretty don’t mean it’s not a good apple. This book has alot of information in it to keep our heritage alive.

This is a great reference if you are interested in old varieties of apples. A definitive publication on all old apple varieties will probably never be written due to the genetic traits of the Malus genera. But this is the closest you are going to come to a definitive work in this day and age. The author has done a remarkable study!

The book is full of wonderful information about heirloom apples. Terrific illustrations add to the enjoyment. A treasure of a book!

This book is a long time keeper! I’m looking to plant an heirloom orchard with 100 or more old apple trees, and this book is a treasure trove of content. Thanks for writing it!

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