

# Dwarf and semi-dwarf apple trees

*Malus domestica*

## QUICK FACTS

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USDA ZONES

**4–8**

SUNLIGHT

**Full Sun**

HEIGHT

**2–3 ft**

## AT A GLANCE

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Dwarf trees on M.9 or M.26 rootstocks produce high-quality fruit early (year 2-3) but require permanent support stakes or a trellis wire system throughout their life. Semi-dwarf trees on M.7 or M.111 require no permanent support and tolerate a wider range of soil conditions. Do not plant dwarf trees in wet, compacted, or nutritionally poor soils without first addressing those conditions.

## PLANTING CHECKLIST

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- Match site to sun requirements above before buying
- Test soil drainage — dig a 12" hole, fill with water, time it (should drain in 1–2 hrs)
- Dig hole 2x wider than rootball, same depth
- Backfill with native soil — do NOT amend the planting hole
- Water deeply at planting and weekly for first 3 weeks
- Mulch 2" deep, keep mulch 2" away from trunk/stems

## FULL GUIDE WITH SOURCES

<https://outdoorplantcare.com/plants/dwarf-apple-trees/>