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## Purchasing Fruit Trees

The old adage "you get what you pay for" is an important consideration when buying apple trees.

Bargain plants may

not be healthy or may be a variety not adapted to your area. Buy only trees of recommended varieties from a reliable source.

Remember the following points when purchasing trees.

A healthy 1-year-old whip, approximately 2 to 3 feet tall with a 1/2-inch diameter trunk and a good root system, is preferred.

A small tree with a good root system is more desirable than a large tree with a poor root system.

Trees that are 2 years old or older are often not as good as 1-year-old trees. Older trees frequently lack sufficient buds on the lower portion of the trunk to develop a good framework. If older trees are purchased, cut them back to force out buds lower on the main trunk.

Do not purchase trees that appear stunted, poorly grown, diseased or insect injured.

Closely check labels to make sure the selection is the desired variety and rootstock; it is critical that the rootstock be specified, otherwise one may get a seedling rootstock which is very slow to bear.

Do not purchase dried, shriveled plants even at discount prices.