



Columnar Apple Trees - Planting, Care, and Training

Mini-brochure - Landscape, print-friendly (ASCII-only)

- Full sun, good airflow; avoid frost pockets and waterlogged sites.
- Rootstock and vigor: choose compact or dwarfing stock suited to columnar habit (look for columnar series).
- Pollination: most apples need a compatible partner that blooms at the same time; self-fertile sorts crop better with a pollinator.
- Space: rows 1.2 to 1.8 m; in-row spacing 0.5 to 0.8 m for columns, depending on vigor.
- Container option: 40 to 60 L pot with drainage; stake the central leader.

Planting - spacing and steps

Spacing	0.5 to 0.8 m between trees; rows 1.2 to 1.8 m. Keep a narrow hedgerow about 50 to 60 cm wide.
Hole & depth	Dig a hole about 2 times wider than the rootball and same depth. Set at nursery depth; do not bury graft union.
Soil	Well-drained loam; slightly acidic to neutral. Mix in compost; avoid fresh manure.
Stake	Install a sturdy stake and tie the central leader loosely at intervals.
Mulch	Mulch 5 to 8 cm, keeping away from trunk.

Watering and feeding

Water	About 2.5 to 4 cm per week during establishment and fruit swell; more in pots. Use drip or slow soaker.
Feeding	In early spring apply a balanced fertilizer per label, or top-dress with compost. In containers, feed lightly every 4 to 6 weeks in season.

Article: cveti-doma.ru/en/columnar-apple-trees/
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Training and pruning - keep a slender column

Central leader	Maintain one straight leader tied to a stake. Do not head the leader unless damaged; replace with best upright shoot if needed.
Laterals	In summer, shorten side shoots to 10 to 15 cm to form fruiting spurs; remove inward, crossing, or strongly downward shoots.
Spur management	In winter, thin crowded fruiting spurs and keep spacing along the column to avoid overbearing and shading.
Fruit thinning	After fruit set, thin clusters to 1 to 2 fruits every 10 to 15 cm for size and to protect the column from bending.

Pests and diseases - quick view

Common issues	Aphids, codling moth, spider mites; apple scab, powdery mildew, fire blight in some regions.
Prevention	Good airflow and sanitation; prune for light; avoid evening overhead watering; pick up windfalls.
Action	Use traps or sleeves for moths where appropriate; insecticidal soap for small pests; cut out blighted shoots and sanitize tools.

Seasonal calendar

Spring	Plant, stake, and tie in; feed; thin blossoms on young trees to help establishment.
Summer	Water steadily; summer prune and spur-trim laterals; thin fruit clusters; watch for pests and diseases.
Autumn	Harvest by variety timing; top up mulch; remove mummified fruit and fallen leaves.
Winter	Check ties and stakes; light structural prune; thin crowded spurs.

Column plan worksheet

Variety / pollinator	Spacing or pot size	Stake and ties	Pruning notes	Action date

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