

## 4 ways to make most of apple season

**BY TERESA LATCHFORD** tlatchford@yrmg.com

When the leaves begin to change on trees, it means apples are ripe for picking.

Whether you prefer your apples sweet or tart, large or small, red or green, there are plenty of varieties to choose from right here in York Region.

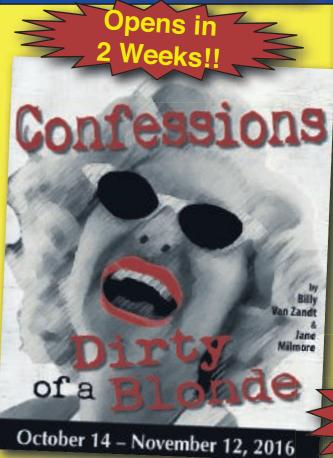


Susie Kockerscheidt/Metrolar

Nico Ferreira, 2, picks an apple Saturday at Pine Farms Orchard in King.

- Choosing a variety: There are hundreds of varieties of apples, according to Brooks Farms, but determining how the apples will be used can help determine what kind of apple you should seek out.
- Where to pick: Applewood Farm and Winery, 12442 McCowan Rd., Stouffville; Brooks Farms, 122 Ashworth Rd., Mount Albert; Country Apple Orchard Farm, 3105 16th Sideroad, King City; Homestead Orchards, 3961 Old Homestead Rd., Sutton; Organics Farm, 7550 19th Ave., Markham; Pine Farms Orchard, 2700 16th Sideroad, King
- Harvesting: Being able to tell if an apple is ready for picking can be difficult but there is a tried and tested rule, according to Pine Farms Orchard. Using what is known as the "eye to the sky and twist" method, gently hold the apple by the bottom with the stem to the sky. Gently twist and if the apple comes off the branch easily, it is ready to be harvested.
- **Storing:** While apples are a durable fruit, try not to bang them around as bruising promotes rot, according to Pine Farms Orchard.





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