

# Appletesters.net – A New Website to Assist Apple Growers and Apple Testers in Variety Selection

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Appletesters.net is a new website designed to assist apple growers in variety and cultivar selection for new orchard plantings. It is also designed to provide a location for anyone conducting cooperative apple evaluation and testing to report and archive their findings using a unified protocol for apple variety fruit and trees.

Variety and cultivar selection is the largest economic decision a grower can make when establishing a new high-density orchard block of a thousand trees or more per acre using tall spindle systems.

Appletesters.net allows growers or potential growers to log on and view records of a variety from different locations over multiple years to assist making their planting decisions.

The online records allow cooperators and growers to see what variety characteristics are performing best in their area. The database will include pictures and casual observations in addition to fruit quality measurements and important horticultural characteristics including tree habit, bloom time, disease tolerance, mortality, precociousness, fruit appearance, taste, storability, and more.

## ***Directions for Use***

Point your web browser to: <http://appletesters.net>. Click on the apple testers database Guest Login. This brings you to our login page, select the guest account button and click login. This brings you to a data base record; you are now in the system. The first thing you should do is familiarize yourself with the database layout. In the tool bar at the top, all the way

to the right is a help button. Click the help button to open a new window that contains the directions as to how the database works. Read through and see what it's all about. This window will stay open for reference for you at any time.

## ***Example of Use***

Lets look at one search as an example of one way to use the database. In the tool bar select the button Find. This will bring up a blank data base record, you can search on any criteria but lets select the cultivar box by typing a cultivar/variety, lets say Zestar. Then go back up to the tool bar and click the Perform Find button. This brings up 7 records for Zestar. You know this by again looking at the toolbar on top in the left hand corner at Found Records. With Zestar (As of 12/15/12) you will see 7 records that you can cycle through using the arrows to the left of the Found Records icon.

Appletesters.net will become an important repository of cultivar/strain information on tree growth and fruit quality over many seasons. Such information should be very useful to apple growers looking for more and/or unbiased variety/strain information to make future planting decisions.

## ***Funding***

Funding for this project was provided by a North East SARE partnership grant.  
<http://www.nesare.org/>.



State MA  
Location Belchertown  
Cultivar Paulared  
date 8/19/2011  
fruit picture <http://fruit.umext.umass.edu/2011apple/paulared0819.jpg>



Figure 1. Apple Tester database picture of Paulared record, Belchertown, MA 8/11.

appletesters

http://128.119.96.130/fmi/iwp/cgi?-db=applete: Google

APS - Journal Growing Wit...opean Flair hazecam Facebook UMass Fruit Advisor

appletesters AppleTesters 2010 report

4 72 / 317 Found (Unsorted) Show All New Record Edit Record Delete Record Records Find

Layout: appletesters View As: [Table Icon]

appletesters.net

date 8/19/2011

State MA

Location Belchertown rootstock

**Cultivar** Paulared

tree vigor medium-strong

branching medium

tree habit spreading-drooping

crop load medium-heavy biennial

maturity period early

pre-harvest drop some

fruit ground color green

fruit over color red

color % red 75

color pattern blush

lenticels inconspicuous

fruit symmetry globose

russet coverage nil

russet region

russet texture

cracking absent

cracking location

fruit size medium-large

fruit diameter inches 3.1

fruit weight grams 184

firmness lbs 15.1

soluble solids 11

starch index 3.5 (2-5) browning faint

flesh color green-white

flesh texture soft

flavor tart

skin thickness average

skin greasiness dry

eating quality fair

Figure 2. Blank Apple Tester Database Record Form.

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