

Unidentified Apples (Tag AL-UnKn): Possibility List and ID Log

6 untagged apple trees (plant IDs i62-1 to i62-6), each one of the purchased apples below. Status as of October 16, 2026.

What this is: 6 apple trees share the tag AL-UnKn. Each is one of the purchased apples below that has no tagged tree. Bloom timing and fruit will tell them apart over the next few years.

Owner statement, October 16, 2026: Every purchased apple arrived. A purchased apple with no tagged tree is presumed to have died in Boise; those deaths were not recorded.

The count: 11 purchased apples have no tagged tree (10 main candidates and 1 long shot). 6 of them are these trees, so 4 to 5 are presumed to have died in Boise.

Narrowing it down: Compare each tree with the tagged tree of the same name, by bloom timing first and by fruit later. Golden Russet and Empire have no tagged tree to compare with, so a tree that matches none of the tagged trees points to one of them. Only Cortland can fill more than one tree, so two trees that look identical are probably the 2 Cortland trees; every other candidate fills at most one tree.

Numbering: The 6 trees share one tag. They are planted (October 2026), so add a number tag (UnKn-1 to UnKn-6) to each and write down its actual spot so an ID stays with the right tree. Their spots are on the [pollination grid](#); until they are identified they are not counted as pollen donors.

Possibility list

Bloom	Candidate	Slots	Vendor / rootstock	Tagged tree to compare with	Ripens	Typical fruit*
FG 1	Zestar! Full profile	1	Lowes M-111	AL-Zestar x2	Early	Round, about 3 inches across. Rosy red blush covers 60 to 85 percent of the skin depending on sun exposure, with creamy yellow on the shaded side. Recognize: Among the earliest apples to ripen. Round, medium-large fruit that is mostly rosy red over creamy yellow, with the most red on the sunny side. Habit: Somewhat upright to spreading. Vigorous in the early years, then settles into a spur-type habit with moderate vigor (one nursery says low-moderate). Very early bloom and annual bearing. The original own-rooted seedling was about 14 ft tall and 9 ft wide. Bark and twigs: One-year shoots are hairless and moderately shiny, grayed orange on the sunny side, with a medium number of medium-sized lenticels. Lateral buds are medium to large, round-tipped and held flat against the twig (plant patent). Leaves: Expanded leaves are medium green above and lighter below with moderate down, weak to medium gloss, scalloped margins and a short pointed tip, about 9 cm long and 4 cm wide. Leaves at growing shoot tips are densely hairy and whitish (plant patent).
FG 2	Golden Russet Full profile	1	GrowOrganic M-111	None tagged	Very late	Small and slightly flattened. Rough russeted skin in golden-yellow to bronze, sometimes with an orange blush on the sunny side. Recognize: Rough russet over most of the skin is the giveaway, on small, slightly squat fruit. It ripens very late, so it is still on the tree after most others are picked. Habit: 1905 New York account: medium-to-large tree of moderate to strong vigor; rounded and upright when young, later spreading and dense, with long limbs whose slender side shoots sag after heavy crops. Fruit on branch ends; usually biennial, sometimes nearly annual. Other apples share this name. Bark and twigs: 1905 account: young branches smooth and olive-yellow; new shoots olive-green to muted reddish-brown with gray mottling and fine hairs toward the tips. Many small, pale lenticels give a speckled look. One orchard says dark reddish-olive bark. Leaves: Leaves are described as dull, dark green with sharply toothed margins (one orchard account).

Bloom	Candidate	Slots	Vendor / rootstock	Tagged tree to compare with	Ripens	Typical fruit*
FG 3	Cortland Full profile	2	GrowOrganic M-111	AL-Cort/ AL-Cortland ×3	Mid	Medium to large, larger than McIntosh. Typically deep red streaks and flush over a green-yellow ground, with thin skin and paper-white flesh. Recognize: Looks like a larger, brighter McIntosh. Cut one open: the flesh stays white far longer than most apples. Ripens a week or two after McIntosh. Habit: Vigorous, tall tree that is upright and spreading. Bears young and annually, with heavy crops, so early fruit is removed to protect growth. Fruit hangs well on the tree after ripening. Bark and twigs: Old wood is described as having dark red bark (one orchard account). Leaves: Leaves are flat with the midrib curving the reverse way; the same orchard account describes the tips as light green and the surface as dull and rough.
FG 3	Empire Full profile	1	GrowOrganic M-111	None tagged	Mid	Intense maroon-red over a light green background, with bright white flesh. Recognize: Very dark maroon-red fruit over light green, firmer than McIntosh, with bright white flesh. The tree is strong and well shaped and crops heavily every year. Habit: Moderately vigorous to vigorous, precocious tree with a spreading habit and sturdy, well-formed structure. Bears on spurs and crops heavily every year, so thinning is advised for fruit size.
FG 3	Sweet Sixteen Full profile	1	Grandpa M-7	AL- S Six ×1	Mid	Medium-large, blushed and striped rose-red over yellow and speckled with pale lenticels. The crisp flesh is distinctly yellow, almost golden. Recognize: Yellow flesh and a candy-like flavor set it apart from other red-striped apples. The tree is vigorous with a very upright habit that benefits from spreading. Habit: Vigorous, moderate-sized, vase-shaped tree growing upright; slender branches carry heavy crops without breaking. Very upright, so spreading the branches helps (one nursery says moderately spreading). Easy to manage; annual bearer if thinned. Blooms mid to late season.
FG 4	Gala Full profile	1	GrowOrganic or Lowes M-111	AL-Gala ×1	Early	Small to medium and round. Orange streaks over a yellow ground when young, turning a stronger red as the fruit matures. Recognize: Small to medium round fruit with orange streaks over yellow that deepen to red with ripeness; ripens early in the season. Habit: Medium-small, low, round-topped, spreading tree; the 1974 patent calls it vigorous yet only medium-slow growing, hardy, productive and a regular bearer. A nursery lists it as moderately vigorous, precocious and spur-bearing, tending to crop every other year. Bark and twigs: Trunk smooth and moderately stocky; branches of medium thickness, smooth and heavily branched, brown, with many medium-to-large lenticels (from the 1974 patent for the original selection). Leaves: Oval leaves of fairly large size, abruptly pointed at the tip, smooth, of medium thickness, roughly 4 in long, olive green, with scalloped to finely toothed margins and long, medium-slender stalks (1974 plant patent). The tagged Gala could be either purchase, so the missing one could be either.
FG 4	Honeycrisp Full profile	1	GrowOrganic M-111	AL-Hon Cris ×2	Mid	Medium to large. Light green-yellow skin largely covered with a red-orange flush (pinker in good sun), sometimes flecked with russet dots; white flesh. Recognize: Large, red-orange flushed fruit with white flesh that is crisp but not hard; the fruit bruises easily. Ripens relatively early in September. Habit: Breeder's patent: moderately vigorous, slightly upright, annual bearing. Minnesota's page: somewhat spreading, low to moderate vigor, good precocity on dwarfing rootstock; early heavy bearing may call for staking the leader or removing some fruit. Bark and twigs: Bark is smooth and bronze-toned, with conspicuous lenticels (breeder's plant patent). Leaves: Ovate, toothed leaves about 8-10.5 cm long and 5-8 cm wide on 3-3.5 cm stalks. Green and glossy above with a smooth surface, hairy beneath; margins sometimes tinge yellow in late summer.

Bloom	Candidate	Slots	Vendor / rootstock	Tagged tree to compare with	Ripens	Typical fruit*
FG 4	Braeburn Full profile	1	GrowOrganic M-111	AL-Brae Dwf ×1	Late	Medium to large, taller than wide. Red-orange streaks over a green-yellow ground, a bi-colored apple. Recognize: Bi-colored fruit with red-orange streaks over green-yellow that ripens late in the season. Cut one open: very juicy with a clean snap. Habit: Growth is strong until it starts cropping, then slows to moderate. Spreading, spur-bearing, early and heavy cropper. The central leader throws many branches and needs top thinning to stay dominant. May bear biennially unless thinned. Said to stay smaller than Gala or Fuji on the same rootstock. The tagged Braeburn is the dwarf (Lowes) tree, so the missing one is the GrowOrganic tree on M-111.
FG 4	Aztec Fuji Full profile	1	Lowes or StarkBro Semi Dwarf / Dwarf	AL-Az Fuji ×2	Very late	Round, large (about 3 inches across) and thin-skinned. Deep reddish-pink skin, more even than most Fujis, over smooth pale yellow flesh. Recognize: Evenly deep reddish-pink skin over pale yellow flesh, ripening very late; standard Fuji is paler and less uniformly red. Habit: Strongly vigorous Fuji strain, best on a dwarfing rootstock. Comes into bearing quickly with good yields, but heavy crops can lead to alternate-year bearing and fruit thinning is difficult. Early-to-mid bloom. One nursery guide gives 12-15 ft tall and wide at maturity. The two tagged Aztec Fujis could be any two of the three purchases (1 semi-dwarf from Lowes, 2 dwarf from StarkBro).
FG 2	Dolgo crabapple Full profile LONG SHOT	1	Montana Fruit	AL-Dolgo ×1	Early	Small crabapple, about 1 inch. Crimson to purple-red skin, round-conical to oblong (Dolgo means long), sometimes with a waxy bloom; cream to yellow flesh. Recognize: Oblong, olive-shaped crimson crab about an inch long on a vigorous, very hardy tree, with a heavy white bloom early in spring (bloom group 2). Habit: Vigorous, large, very hardy crabapple of upright, spreading form; size reports vary but are often 25-30 ft tall by 30-40 ft wide. Blooms early to mid season with large white flowers. One nursery calls cropping steady, while a Utah arboretum says it flowers well mainly in alternate years. Leaves: Green, alternate, elliptical leaves with toothed edges, roughly 2-4 in long. <i>Montana Fruit's four crabs (2 Dolgo, 2 Kerr) equal the four tagged crabs (1 Dolgo, 3 Kerr), so one Kerr tag may really be this Dolgo.</i>

*Typical fruit, the Recognize lines, and any habit, bark, or leaf notes come from each cultivar's profile in the cultivar guide, which lists sources and says whether any details are general knowledge. Habit, bark, and leaf notes are shown only where a source describes that cultivar; otherwise compare your tree with the tagged tree of the same name. Ripening is relative to apples' own season, so go by the order Early, Mid, Late, Very late. The tagged tree is a better reference than any description. Bloom group (FG) is from your purchase sheet; slots are purchased apples minus tagged trees.

Sources: Minnesota Hardy (University of Minnesota): Zestar! · Google Patents: US Plant Patent 11,367, apple tree Minnewashta (Zestar!) · Cummins Nursery: Zestar! apple · Orange Pippin: Golden Russet · Internet Archive: The Apples of New York vol. 1 (Beach, 1905), Golden Russet pp. 143-144 · Albemarle CiderWorks: Golden Russet · Orange Pippin: Cortland · UMass Center for Agriculture, Food, and the Environment: Cortland · Fedco Trees: Cortland apple · Albemarle CiderWorks: Cortland · Orange Pippin: Empire · Cummins Nursery: Empire apple · Silver Creek Nursery: Empire apple tree · Cummins Nursery: Sweet Sixteen · Fedco Trees: Sweet Sixteen apple · Tooley's Trees: Sweet 16 apple tree · Orange Pippin: Gala · Google Patents: US Plant Patent 3,637, Gala apple (Kidd's D-8) · Silver Creek Nursery: Gala Original apple tree · Orange Pippin: Honeycrisp · Google Patents: US Plant Patent 7,197, Honeycrisp apple tree · Minnesota Hardy (University of Minnesota): Honeycrisp · Orange Pippin: Braeburn · Albemarle CiderWorks: Braeburn · Silver Creek Nursery: Braeburn apple tree · Stark Bro's: Aztec Fuji · Minnetonka Orchards: Aztec Fuji · Dalival: Fuji Zhen Aztec apple variety sheet · Tsesmelis Nursery: Fuji Aztec apple variety · Raintree Nursery: Dolgo Crabapple · Montana State University WARC: Dolgo identification · Fedco Trees: Dolgo crabapple · Utah State University Botanical Center: Dolgo Crabapple

ID log

Record what you see even when unsure, and check off candidates you can rule out. Bark, twigs, leaves, and habit are worth writing down too: stand next to the tagged tree of a candidate and compare. To keep it in the property data, add each observation as a plant event for the tree (see data/README.md).

UnKn-1

i62-1

Tag AL-UnKn

Spot R3-C7

SiteRef C11-E46-S45

Actual spot / SiteRef:

Exact planting date (October 2026):

☐ Number tag added

Bloom year	First bloom	Full bloom	Last bloom	Compared with (tagged tree) / notes

Date	Habit and branching	Bark and twigs	Leaves (size, shape, underside)	Compared with (tagged tree)

Fruit year	Ripe on	Size	Skin color / stripes	Flesh	Taste	Keeps

Ruled out:

☐ Zestar!

☐ Golden Russet

☐ Cortland x2

☐ Empire

☐ Sweet Sixteen

☐ Gala

☐ Honeycrisp

☐ Braeburn

☐ Aztec Fuji

☐ Dolgo crabapple (long shot)

Best match:

Confirmed on:

☐ bloom

☐ fruit

☐ side by side with the tagged tree

☐ vendor records

Notes:

UnKn-2

i62-2

Tag AL-UnKn

Spot R3-C12

SiteRef E11-E36-S45

Actual spot / SiteRef:

Exact planting date (October 2026):

☐ Number tag added

Bloom year	First bloom	Full bloom	Last bloom	Compared with (tagged tree) / notes

Date	Habit and branching	Bark and twigs	Leaves (size, shape, underside)	Compared with (tagged tree)

Fruit year	Ripe on	Size	Skin color / stripes	Flesh	Taste	Keeps

Ruled out:

☐ Zestar!

☐ Golden Russet

☐ Cortland x2

☐ Empire

☐ Sweet Sixteen

☐ Gala

☐ Honeycrisp

☐ Braeburn

☐ Aztec Fuji

☐ Dolgo crabapple (long shot)

Best match:

Confirmed on:

☐ bloom

☐ fruit

☐ side by side with the tagged tree

☐ vendor records

Notes:

UnKn-3 i62-3 Tag AL-UnKn Spot R4-C2 · SiteRef B11-E15-S25

Actual spot / SiteRef: _____ Exact planting date (October 2026): _____

☐ Number tag added

Bloom year	First bloom	Full bloom	Last bloom	Compared with (tagged tree) / notes

Date	Habit and branching	Bark and twigs	Leaves (size, shape, underside)	Compared with (tagged tree)

Fruit year	Ripe on	Size	Skin color / stripes	Flesh	Taste	Keeps

Ruled out: ☐ Zestar! ☐ Golden Russet ☐ Cortland ×2 ☐ Empire ☐ Sweet Sixteen ☐ Gala ☐ Honeycrisp ☐ Braeburn
☐ Aztec Fuji ☐ Dolgo crabapple (long shot)

Best match: _____ Confirmed on: _____ ☐ bloom ☐ fruit

☐ side by side with the tagged tree ☐ vendor records

Notes: _____

UnKn-4 i62-4 Tag AL-UnKn Spot R4-C5 · SiteRef C11-E19-S25

Actual spot / SiteRef: _____ Exact planting date (October 2026): _____

☐ Number tag added

Bloom year	First bloom	Full bloom	Last bloom	Compared with (tagged tree) / notes

Date	Habit and branching	Bark and twigs	Leaves (size, shape, underside)	Compared with (tagged tree)

Fruit year	Ripe on	Size	Skin color / stripes	Flesh	Taste	Keeps

Ruled out: ☐ Zestar! ☐ Golden Russet ☐ Cortland ×2 ☐ Empire ☐ Sweet Sixteen ☐ Gala ☐ Honeycrisp ☐ Braeburn
☐ Aztec Fuji ☐ Dolgo crabapple (long shot)

Best match: _____ Confirmed on: _____ ☐ bloom ☐ fruit

☐ side by side with the tagged tree ☐ vendor records

Notes: _____

UnKn-5 i62-5 Tag AL-UnKn Spot R4-C8 · SiteRef D11-E23-S25

Actual spot / SiteRef: _____ Exact planting date (October 2026): _____

☐ Number tag added

Bloom year	First bloom	Full bloom	Last bloom	Compared with (tagged tree) / notes

Date	Habit and branching	Bark and twigs	Leaves (size, shape, underside)	Compared with (tagged tree)

Fruit year	Ripe on	Size	Skin color / stripes	Flesh	Taste	Keeps

Ruled out: ☐ Zestar! ☐ Golden Russet ☐ Cortland ×2 ☐ Empire ☐ Sweet Sixteen ☐ Gala ☐ Honeycrisp ☐ Braeburn
☐ Aztec Fuji ☐ Dolgo crabapple (long shot)

Best match: _____ Confirmed on: _____ ☐ bloom ☐ fruit

☐ side by side with the tagged tree ☐ vendor records

Notes: _____

UnKn-6 i62-6 Tag AL-UnKn Spot R4-C10 · SiteRef E11-E9-S25

Actual spot / SiteRef: _____ Exact planting date (October 2026): _____

☐ Number tag added

Bloom year	First bloom	Full bloom	Last bloom	Compared with (tagged tree) / notes

Date	Habit and branching	Bark and twigs	Leaves (size, shape, underside)	Compared with (tagged tree)

Fruit year	Ripe on	Size	Skin color / stripes	Flesh	Taste	Keeps

Ruled out: ☐ Zestar! ☐ Golden Russet ☐ Cortland ×2 ☐ Empire ☐ Sweet Sixteen ☐ Gala ☐ Honeycrisp ☐ Braeburn
☐ Aztec Fuji ☐ Dolgo crabapple (long shot)

Best match: _____ Confirmed on: _____ ☐ bloom ☐ fruit

☐ side by side with the tagged tree ☐ vendor records

Notes: _____