Растителна защита

електронно списание за растителна защита
семена, торове и земеделие
ISSN 2815-522X

Kyustendil celebrates 130 years of fruit growing with a Festival of Fertility

Растителна Защита

Date 17.09.2026 | **Issue** 9/2026 | **ISSN** 2815-522X | **Language** EN
www.plant-protection.com/article/2467?lang=en



Heavy with fruit and colours, autumn in the Kyustendil region is always beautiful. The Festival of Fertility is not merely a celebration, but a kind of tribute to the tireless work of fruit growers in the region. On Velbazhd Square, experts from the Institute will present an exclusive exhibition revealing an impressive diversity of traditional and new, specially selected apple varieties – the undisputed emblem of the Kyustendil region.

„The Fruit Garden of Bulgaria“ once again becomes the centre of autumn abundance. From 18 to 20 September 2026, Kyustendil is hosting the traditional Festival of Fertility. This year's edition carries particular historical weight, as it marks the 130th anniversary of the first fruit-growing exhibition in the country, held in the town back in 1896.

The main driving force behind the event, organised jointly with the local municipality, is the Institute of Agriculture – Kyustendil, which plays a key role in establishing and developing the region as a leading fruit-growing centre. It is precisely the scientific achievements and centuries-old traditions in fruit cultivation that are at the heart of the festival. On Velbazhd Square, experts from the Institute will present an exclusive exhibition revealing an impressive diversity of traditional and new, specially selected apple varieties – the undisputed emblem of the Kyustendil region.

The theme of the apple and the autumn harvest continues in the masterfully arranged stands of the local community centres. Prepared with great imagination, they demonstrate the richness of the native land, with the apple occupying the place of honour among the displayed gifts.

To make the festival complete, the organisers have prepared a colourful accompanying programme that brings together art, cuisine and music. Over the three festival days, visitors can browse the trade exhibitions of agricultural producers and craftsmen, as well as enjoy authentic flavours in the home preserves zones.

The cultural programme is centred around thematic events such as the International Children's Music Festival „Golden Apples“, open-air presentational painting and art workshops. The festive atmosphere

ISSN 2815-522X

will be complemented by folklore and contemporary concerts, and for the youngest there are a children's carnival and themed sports games „Eat, Move and Be“.

∗ *cover photo Visit Kystendil*