SANTA CRUZ - Cal Poly's Swanton Pacific Ranch announces the opening of U-Pick apple season at its Organic Apple Orchard.

Enjoy Ginger Gold, Lodi, Royal Gala, Red Delicious, Jonagold, Yellow Newtown, Red Fuji and Granny Smith apples now through late harvest in December. All are grown by Cal Poly students and staff at the beautiful Swanton Pacific Ranch in Davenport, just north of Santa Cruz on Highway One.

The apple orchard is certified 100 percent by the California Certified Organic Farmers. In addition to U-Pick harvesting, students also hand-pick apples throughout the season. The two-acre orchard yields five tons of apples every year.

The apple orchard is nestled in a sunny meadow off Swanton Road, protected from ocean winds by the mountains and positioned to receive the perfect amount of sun to produce juicy, flavorful fruit.

The Swanton Organic Apple Orchard is open to the public and Cal Poly alumni and parents from late August to December for U-Pick apples. Orchard hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays and weekends.

To get to the orchard, take Highway One north from Santa Cruz to Swanton Road. Follow the signs to the apple orchard.

For details, visit the Swanton Pacific Ranch Web site at http://www.spranch.org or call the ranch at 831-427-1718.

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