



April 17, 2026

Dear Washington Growers and Nurseries,

Washington State University is proud of its long-standing partnership with the Washington apple industry and deeply appreciates the continued investment, innovation, and stewardship demonstrated by our growers and nurseries across the state.

As you know, the original Washington Grower Exclusivity Period for 'WA 38', marketed under the brand name Cosmic Crisp®, was scheduled to expire in 2027. This exclusivity was established to honor the critical role Washington growers played in the development of this variety—through direct funding, industry collaboration, and an enduring commitment to its commercial success. The variety itself was developed at WSU with support from Washington growers, the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission, and the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

WSU recognizes that the Washington apple industry's investment in 'WA 38' continues well beyond its initial commercialization. Ongoing plantings, sustained quality standards, and the growing popularity and market strength of the Cosmic Crisp® brand of apples reflect the dedication of Washington growers and reinforce the value of this partnership.

In acknowledgement of that continued commitment, this letter serves as formal notice that **WSU is extending the Washington Grower Exclusivity Period for 'WA 38' through the patent expiration date of May 26, 2032.**

Following the patent's expiration, WSU will no longer have the ability to restrict where the variety may be grown on a generic basis or with trademarks other than Cosmic Crisp® within the United States. However, WSU remains firmly committed to protecting and promoting Cosmic Crisp® as a premium brand well beyond 2032, including a long-term licensing program that will allow WSU to continue to manage where and how any branded fruit is marketed and sold. At that time, growers holding a patent license will be given the opportunity to enter into trademark licenses, ensuring consistent quality standards for trademarked fruit and safeguarding the strength and integrity of the Cosmic Crisp® brand that Washington growers helped build, that, WSU believes, will continue to command a premium in the marketplace.

WSU values its close relationship with the Washington apple industry and remains committed to supporting its continued success through research, innovation, and thoughtful stewardship of WSU-developed varieties. We are grateful for your partnership and look forward to the next chapter of growth for Cosmic Crisp® and for Washington apples.

Thank you for your continued leadership, collaboration, and investment in Washington agriculture.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Tamsen,
Senior Director, Innovation & Entrepreneurship
Office of Research
Washington State University