

Variation in Some Characteristics of the Midway Strawberry

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At the present time, some commercial nurserymen are listing two clones or stocks of Midway strawberry, a variety introduced in December, 1959, by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station. Midway was originated in the cooperative strawberry breeding program of the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station and is now being grown extensively in eastern United States.

In the spring of 1964, Mr. Calvin Lutz, strawberry grower and nurseryman at Kaleva, Michigan, noted two differences in the performance of two different stocks of Midway and informed the senior author of his observations. He observed that Stock #1 had ripe fruit about 5 days earlier than Stock #2, and that plants of Stock #1 had paler green foliage than Stock #2. Both stocks were growing in the same field with the same cultural care. Stock #1 had been obtained in 1961 from a Michigan nurseryman; and Stock #2 was obtained in 1962 from the Michigan Department of Agriculture, which, in turn, had obtained stock from the USDA at Beltsville, Md. Mr. Lutz kindly sent us plants of both stocks in December, 1964, and again in October 1965; and they have been fruited at Beltsville in 1967, 1968, and 1969 in full matted beds.

Our observations on the performance of the two stocks corroborate those of Mr. Lutz. The fruit of Stock #1 has ripened 3 to 5 days earlier than Stock #2 each year. The color of the fruit of Stock #1 is slightly brighter red than Stock #2, but in all other re-

spects the fruits of the two stocks are indistinguishable. The foliage of Stock #1 is a lighter, or gray-green color, compared with a dark green color for Stock #2. Plants of both stocks were free of viruses detectable with indicator clones of *Fragaria vesca*.

The origin of the differences in the stocks is unknown. Stock #1 in Michigan was originally obtained from a foundation nurseryman in Maryland in spring of 1960. The Michigan nurseryman propagated the plants for one year before they were supplied to Mr. Lutz.

Some nurserymen are listing Stock #1 of Midway as "Midway No. 1," and the other stock as "Midway No. 2." Some confusion has arisen as to which characteristics are associated with No. 1 and which with No. 2. To clarify the question, we propose that Midway No. 1 be called "Early Midway" and that Midway No. 2 be known as "Midway." Both varieties are valuable in extending the strawberry season.

Russetting in Golden Delicious Types and Sports

In view of all the effort being expended to find a russet-resistant Golden Delicious or Golden Delicious type, the following quotation from a letter from Roger Way, of the New York Agr. Exp. Station, is worth noting. The editor reminds the reader, however, that the degree of russetting is influenced by environmental conditions and management practices.

"None of the Golden Delicious sports have been satisfactorily free of russet in our tests (at Geneva). Even

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Smoothee has shown much russetting in our orchard. Other Golden types, Sungold, Badami Golden Delicious, Blushing Golden and Prime Gold, all of which have fruited, are seedlings and not sports. They show less russet, but their quality is a little different from Golden Delicious; and for this reason, I would guess they will never go. Other seedlings, Honeygold and Ozark, which have fruited, develop considerable russet here."

—G. M. Kessler

A. P. S. Sponsored Apple Book Ready for Publication

A book entitled, "North American Apples: Rootstocks, Outlook," sponsored by A. P. S., and edited by W. H. Upshall (president of A. P. S. 1961 and 1962), will be published in late November of this year. It will consist of about 200 pages and numerous illustrations. The subjects and authors of the different chapters are as follows:

- (1) Introduction and a historic view of apple introductions to North America—by A. P. French.
- (2) Varieties of Yesteryear—by A. P. French.
- (3) Trends in Current Apple Varieties—by E. C. Wilcox.
- (4) Delicious—by Virginia Maas.
- (5) Golden Delicious—by Virginia Maas.
- (6) Jonathan—by R. P. Larsen.
- (7) McIntosh—by W. H. Upshall.
- (8) Northern Spy—by W. H. Upshall.
- (9) Rome—J. B. Mowry.
- (10) Winesap—E. S. Degman.
- (11) York Imperial—H. A. Rollins, Jr.
- (12) Rootstocks in Relation to Apple Cultivars—R. F. Carlson.
- (13) Apple Orchards of Tomorrow—by H. A. Rollins, Jr.

"North American Apples" should prove useful and interesting to fruit growers, pomologists, nurserymen,

teachers, and to anyone else with a special interest in the apple.

Although the price for the book has not yet been set, it is not too early to send your orders for it to the publisher, Michigan State University Press, Box 550, East Lansing, Mich. 48823.—R. F. Carlson, *Chairman, Editorial Committee, A. P. S.*

Holly Apple from Ohio

Holly, a late Delicious type apple, was released by the Ohio Agr. Research and Development Center, of Ohio State University, at Wooster, on June 30, 1970. A cross between Jonathan and Delicious, it is completely covered with deep, bright red, resembles Delicious in shape, but has less prominent points at the calyx end. Holly is juicy and sweet in flavor, although more tart than Delicious. It matures about eight days after Delicious and its sports at Wooster. It becomes ripe in storage between January and February, and shows less of a tendency to become mealy in storage than Delicious. The original tree of Holly began to bear at Wooster after eight years in the orchard.

Holly was developed by F. S. Howlett, who retired on the very day it was introduced. Dr. Howlett made the original cross for Holly in 1952, and the unnamed seedling was first planted at Wooster in 1954.

Spur-Type Golden Delicious

Spur-type Golden Delicious strains of apple were dropped from their recommended list of varieties for 1970 by the Summerland Research Station in British Columbia. This decision was based on accumulating evidence that the compact growth character of many of the strains is unstable, and the fact that indexing at Summerland has revealed that there are currently no strains free from the rubbery wood virus.