

Characteristics of the Apple Variety: 'Egri Piros'

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'Egri Piros' (Red of Eger) is a rather recently bred Hungarian apple variety produced at the University of Horticulture, Budapest. As to its origin, it seems to be unknown and is considered a clone of an old Hungarian variety. In 1966 it was listed by the Council of Breed Qualification.

A late summer variety, it ripens in early or late August (Hungarian condition considered), thus maturing one month before 'Jonathan', 'Starking' or 'Golden Delicious'.

'Egri Piros', as shown by its name, is red colored—in suitable conditions bright red—while a proper exposition to sunshine will make it dark red all over. The size of the fruit is medium or big, its form generally round as that of 'Jonathan'. In some cases the fruits may turn oval. The flesh of the fruit is white, hard and crisp. Its taste is sour-sweet, rather refreshing. It has a thick peel with a waxy touch suitable for shipping, which is resistant to early wrinkling and spots characteristic of 'Jonathan'.

The 'Egri Piros' tree is an upward growing crown with vigorous frame branches. Its leaves are thick, dark green and resistant to disease. Its

flowers are large, bisexual, with an expressed self-pollinative capacity. This new variety is highly resistant to mildew.

'Egri Piros' is precocious in bearing. Trained in spindle-bush or hedge form, it brings a good yield in the third year after planting. A hedge-row plantation of 4.5 meters by 3.5 meters growing area on 'EM IV' stock in its third year brought a yield of 7.7 metric tons per hectare at the Experimental Farm of the University of Horticulture. With trees at full production, a yield of 40 metric tons per hectare can be reached as well.

The major role of 'Egri Piros' is to supply consumers fresh apples before the ripening time of the winter apple varieties. However, in cold storage, it can be preserved until Christmas without damage. Its ripening time precedes the winter varieties, so that the apple harvest can be prolonged in a given farm most advantageously, especially when labor is scarce.

'Egri Piros' has not only proven a good autumn apple variety, but also shows possibilities for further cross-breeding between 'Egri Piros' and 'Jonathan' which is now in progress.

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