

The Spartan and Jubilee Apples

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The Spartan and Jubilee apples are the result of an apple breeding project begun at the Summerland Experimental Station in 1926. The primary object of this project was to originate new varieties of apples with the good tree and fruit characteristics of McIntosh but with better handling qualities, later harvesting season and longer storage life.

Spartan is a seedling of McIntosh crossed by Newtown. Jubilee was secured by crossing McIntosh with Grimes Golden. The crosses were made in 1926 and the original trees were

planted in November 1928. Both varieties appear to be about as hardy as McIntosh although they have not yet been subjected to a really severe test winter.

Characteristics of Spartan

Spartan began to fruit in 1932 and since that date the original tree has each year borne a fairly consistently heavy crop. The variety was named in 1936, the name "Spartan" being chosen because of the robust nature of the tree and the good handling characteristics of the fruit. Spartan produces a tree of McIntosh type with a strong framework and an extensive bearing area.

The fruit of Spartan is similar to that of McIntosh in size, shape and quality but is darker red in colour. The skin



Spartan, a McIntosh X Newtown cross which produces fruit of better handling quality than McIntosh on a robust productive tree.

takes on a solid, dark red blush even before the fruit is mature enough to harvest. The flesh is white, firm, crisp and juicy. The core is smaller than that of McIntosh. Spartan has a short stem which like that of McIntosh tends to puncture the skin. However, the skin of Spartan is comparatively thick, which gives it good handling characteristics.

Under common storage conditions Spartan has a slightly longer life than McIntosh. When stored promptly at 31 degrees F. it keeps well until early February. It appears to be less susceptible than McIntosh to shrivel and core flush.

Spartan has proved to be a good pollinizer for McIntosh and is itself pollinized by that variety.

Characteristics of Jubilee

Jubilee began to fruit in 1934 and since that date has each year borne a fairly consistently heavy crop. The variety was named in 1939 in honour of the British Columbia Fruit Growers Association's Golden Jubilee Convention.

The original tree of Jubilee made a strong framework and has carried heavy crops without breakage. The fruit is borne well distributed over the tree but under Okanagan conditions requires moderate thinning to ensure good marketable size and uniformity.

The fruit of Jubilee is somewhat similar in appearance to Jonathan but the colour is a brighter blush red. The flesh is cream coloured, firm, crisp and juicy. The quality compares favourably with Jonathan. The stem is of medium length and not very liable to stem-

puncturing. The firm texture of the fruit and the comparatively thick, tough skin gives it good handling characteristics.

In common storage Jubilee remains in good condition for about a month longer than McIntosh. Under cold storage conditions it can be held in good marketable condition until late February. It is less susceptible than McIntosh to shrivelling and core flush.

Jubilee is a good pollinizer for McIntosh and is successfully pollinized by that variety.

Spartan and Jubilee are being planted in commercial orchards in the Okanagan Valley of British Columbia largely because they mature their fruit from two to three weeks later than McIntosh. Thus they provide a means of extending the harvesting and packing season for McIntosh type apples.



Jubilee, a McIntosh X Grimes Golden cross whose fruits are somewhat similar to Jonathan.