

Stability of Delicious Apple Strains

PAUL STARK JR.*

Louisiana, Missouri

LOOKS like some real spectacular changes are going to take place in the Delicious apple variety, with the many new bud sports of Starking and Richared as well as some of the other strains that are being discovered and developed at the present time. We now have fourteen of these under observation, and some of them definitely appear to be substantial improvements over both Richared and Starking, which have been our leading strains of Delicious up until this time.

So far as striping and chimeras are concerned in the Delicious strains, we try to get away from this by doing all our propagation from second generation trees which have first been propagated from a parent tree of known color and production performance. In other words, we select a parent tree of the preferred type and cut scion wood from it and root-graft these for production of a scion source. Then, when we propagate in the nursery row, we cut all bud and grafting wood from these first generation scion orchards. This practice has eliminated, in so far as our own Starkings are concerned, any serious reversion to striped or poorly colored types.

I have observed quite a few limb bud sport mutations that reverted to the parent Delicious type, or even to a pure green or bronzey type. However, these are isolated cases and not too serious so long as buds were not cut from an orchard where some of these were in evidence. I think our parent tree program for the most part will take care of this situation, as it has in the past. We never go to an orchard and cut scions unless we have observed

the tree during the harvest season and marked them for trueness to type.

In the past, we have had several complaints of a general reverting of Starking back to a lighter colored type. When we have run these down, we have found that the situation is more due to a local soil or climatic condition, or possibly an unusual season, and never have we seen any general reversion in solid blocks. During my last visit to Washington I did run into a few cases where a situation of this kind may have developed. As always, we will follow up and check this during the fruiting season next year. We sell from 100,000 to 200,000 Starking trees each year, and the complaints have always been very limited and isolated, and so far unfounded.



Peaches in Ontario

It appears to be more and more important to grow firm, highly colored peaches, and Redhaven last year had about everything that a good peach needs. It is tops. Next to Redhaven I like Redskin. My customers are delighted with it, both wholesale and retail. My July Elberta was good, but I would like something better. I have considerable trouble with leaf spot, but none on either Redskin or Redhaven.

I would like to fill the space between Redhaven and Redskin with varieties as good. I have eight trees of Southland, and they look good. Fairhaven looks good and sells well, but is hard to handle. Fruit is too soft. Sullivan Elberta drops badly and is an Elberta

*Stark Bro's Nurseries and Orchard Co.

100 per cent. It is out. I shall plant it no more.

I am thinking of planting Redglobe and taking a chance. George Whaley says Grant Merrill's "49'er" looks like a wonderful peach to grow. Valient is too soft and rots badly. Halehaven is out for us. It is too "blue", and for some reason I don't like it. July Elberta is better in almost every way. If a person is going to grow Elberta, the Gleason seems to be the best strain.—*A. Grant Fox, Shakespeare, Ontario, Canada.*



Breeding Cider Apples

Dr. F. C. Bradford, who initiated the cider apple project for the United States Department of Agriculture, questioned the cold hardiness of English and French cider apple varieties. With this in mind, he crossed the best of these with varieties from the colder regions. His death interrupted this work just as it was getting under way. Some of his hybrid seedlings fruited heavily for the first time last summer and we had an opportunity to evaluate them. We did a little preliminary crude blending of the juices at Glenn Dale, Maryland, and supplied Dr. Schubert of the West Virginia Station with fruit samples of those that we considered worth while evaluating from the juice standpoint. From preliminary work this year, I would estimate that we shall have five or more hybrid seedlings that will be worthy of further testing.

It seems advisable at this time for horticulturists to wait until we have completed our evaluation of these seedlings. A report on preliminary evaluations, and trees for testing can be supplied at that time.—*W. E. Whitehouse, Plant Introduction Section, U.S.D.A., Beltsville, Maryland.*

NuJon Apple in Washington

Regarding the NuJon apple, we find quite a little variation in the fruit in different localities, not only as to color, but also as to shape.

We feel that one of the chief commercial possibilities of this variety lies in its fine culinary quality. Because it is a relatively new variety it will be necessary to secure more information as the fruit comes into production in various parts of the country, to further determine its potentialities.—*John J. Snyder, Columbia & Okanogan Nursery Co., Wenatchee, Washington.*



Scoring Charts for Mango Varieties

The Variety Committee of the Florida Mango Forum has devised and is recommending two scoring charts for mango varieties. Using these charts, it is possible to score mangoes by means of two figures for: (1) the quality and character of the fruit, and (2) the field performance of the variety.



Attention Readers

We would very much like to have and are willing to pay for copies of the following back issues of the **FRUIT VARIETIES AND HORTICULTURAL DIGEST**: Vol. 1, No. 2, Vol. 3, No. 2, 3 and 4. Your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

R. B. TUKEY,
Secretary-treasurer
American Pomological
Society
Dept. of Horticulture
Purdue University
Lafayette, Indiana