

Red Van Buren Apple

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In 1919 B. D. Van Buren called the attention of the New York State Fruit Testing Association to a highly colored bud sport of Duchess which was first observed by his brother in 1914. The tree on which the sporting limb was found was located in an orchard which had been planted in 1904 at Stockport, New York by their father, J. P. Van Buren. The trees had been purchased for Duchess and the Van Burens believed them to be such, as they all pro-

duced striped apples of Duchess type except the sporting limb which produced an apple distinct from Duchess in being largely covered with a solid red blush.

In 1939 W. H. Upshall of the Horticultural Experiment Station at Vineland, Ontario and J. K. Shaw of the Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station, both independently, questioned whether Red Van Buren could be a bud sport of Duchess. They based their contention on the fact that nursery trees of Duchess and the Red Van Buren sport could be distinguished by their vegetative characters. Since Shaw did



Left: A typical Red Van Buren leaf showing large, coarse serrations.

Right: A typical leaf of Duchess showing medium, dull serrations.

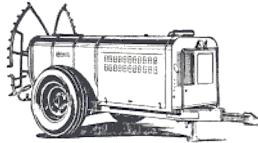
not have any further evidence to support his contention, he reported in 1945 that Red Van Buren was the only bud sport which could be distinguished from its parent by vegetative characters.

In August, 1945 Shaw and his associates visited the original Red Van Buren tree in Stockport on a farm now operated by J. Russell Van Buren, son of J. P. Van Buren. Shaw could not detect any difference in the foliage between the sporting limb and the normal part of the tree; however, it did not look like Duchess. Bud stocks were taken from both the sporting limb and the normal part of the tree and brought to Amherst. These buds and those from a regular Duchess tree growing in one of our orchards were set in the Station nursery.

In June, 1946 Shaw observed that the nursery trees growing from buds of the original Red Van Buren sporting limb, and from the normal part of the tree were identical but different than trees from buds of regular Duchess. In July of the same year the writer visited the orchard in Stockport with A. P. French of the University of Massachusetts and found several trees which were regular Duchess and about an equal number which were identical with Red Van Buren. It was quite apparent that the original planting contained a mixture of Duchess and an unknown variety of possible Russian origin which resembles Duchess in fruit, but which is quite different in vegetative characters. Nursery trees of Red Van Buren differ from Duchess by their taller, more vigorous growth, redder bark,

and more lenticals. The leaves are larger and broader, particularly those near the growing tip, and they have larger and coarser serrations. The leaf texture is thicker and is rougher in appearance than Duchess.

All the evidence indicates that Red Van Buren is not a bud sport of Duchess but of some unknown variety. It should not have been called Van Buren Red Duchess. It is now listed as Red Van Buren in the catalogue of the New York State Fruit Testing Association.



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