

Stability of Delicious Apple Strains

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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

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