

New Apple Variety 'Lawspur'

The first spur-type variety of the Law strain 'Red Rome' apple was introduced recently at Hilltop's Fall Fruit Variety Showcase, according to Wallace Heuser, General Manager, Hilltop Orchards & Nurseries. Among fruit growers the Law strain is considered the outstanding strain of the 'Red Rome' variety. The new variety, named 'Lawspur', has just been assigned U.S. Patent No. 4096. 'Lawspur' was discovered by Dan E. Simmons as a spur-type mutation on one of the Law strain trees in his orchard at Columbiana County, Ohio. Hilltop has been assigned sole rights to the propagation and sale of 'Lawspur' trees.

'Lawspur' bears fruit identical to its parent, the popular Law strain 'Red Rome'. What is of special interest to fruit growers, however, is its spur characteristic which promises much heavier yield of fruit per tree. The 'Lawspur' tree produces heavy spur growth along each limb, with spurs of short fruiting branches at almost every node. Unlike the typical 'Red Rome' tree, which is rangy and open and produces fruit on terminal buds, 'Lawspur' produces on both terminal buds and on spurs along the fruiting branches. The tree is more compact than typical 'Red Romes', with wide angle limbs. The spur-type growth also results in a 15% smaller tree. The more compact 'Lawspur' tree permits substantial savings in spraying as well as in less effort and expense in pruning to maintain good vigor and high quality fruit. According to Mr. Heuser, the 'Lawspur' apple has a rich red mahogany color identical to its



parent Law strain and is very appealing to the eye. Bloom period is similar and matures the same time as the Law strain. Color factor is the strongest of any known 'Red Rome' variety, and it can be grown to full red color in many areas where 'Red Rome' strains are not ordinarily suitable. Flesh is firm, medium grained, has a crisp texture and mild flavor, making it an excellent apple for fresh market and processing. 'Lawspur's' firm texture makes it suitable for shipping as well. It can be kept in good condition in long term storage.

A limited number of 'Lawspur' trees will be available for commercial plantings in 1978. Expanded production in succeeding years will substantially increase quantities available to fruit growers.