

'Yar Mohammadi' — A Seedless Cultivar of Apple From Pakistan

S. MOHAMMAD HUSSAIN SHAH¹ AND M. S. ROGHANI²

The cultivars of apples grown in Pakistan are not properly described. Most of the yellow fruited cultivars are sold under the name of "Golden Delicious." In fact there are several types of apples propagated, some of them are well adapted to this region and it is desirable to separate and name them individually.

The apple-growing region of Pakistan is considered close to the southern limit of apple production. At higher elevations the trees receive enough cold to break dormancy without any problems, but at the lower elevations only certain low chilling types can consistently produce. Here we describe a new cultivar well adapted to this region, 'Yar Mohammadi'.

Origin. The origin of this variety is unknown. The grower, Yar Mohammad Khan, purchased 50 plants of this cultivar in 1956 from the Quetta Agricultural Research Farm of Pakistan. The plants were sold to him as 'Golden Delicious'. He planted the trees on his farm in the village of Battal in the Manshera District. The trees were later found distinctly different from 'Golden Delicious' and named after him as 'Yar Mohammadi'.

Description. The description given here is based on observations of the trees for several years. The trees are planted in well drained soil. The orchard is located 4,938 feet above sea level. Annual rainfall of the area is about 40-45 inches; summers are warm and winters are cold. The trees are now 22 years old, 20-25 feet in height. They produce annually without thinning.

The apple is considered a late va-



Fig. 1. 'Yar Mohammadi', the new cultivar from Pakistan.

riety. It is harvested usually at the end of October and can be stored for 4-5 months without refrigeration. The fruit is large to very large, yellowish green to pale green, oblong, with well developed lobes around the calyx end. The lenticels are large. The fruit has a dull finish without pronounced bloom on the surface of the fruit. The cavity of the fruit is medium deep with a smooth surface. The stem is medium to short, relatively thick. The basin on the calyx end is deep with medium width. The core of the fruit is medium, closed; the carpels are not always symmetrical. The flesh is firm and sweet with a very good quality.

It is clear that this apple is in cultivation in the Quetta area under the name of 'Golden Delicious' and distributed from there to the northern part of Pakistan. The seedlessness of this cultivar, its large size, its lobes, short stem, and its relatively large size tree make it distinctly different from 'Golden Delicious'. Because it appears to be a useful cultivar for Northern Pakistan, it is desirable to propagate it and hence it was named.

¹Director of Agriculture, Research, Agricultural Research Institute, Tarnab (Peshawar) Pakistan.

²Principal Investigator, Pome and Nut Fruits Projects. The work is supported by a PL 480 grant from the Science and Education Administration of U. S. Department of Agriculture.