

First Genetic Dwarf Red Delicious Introduced

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Starkspur® Compact Red Delicious (Cascade cultivar) is a compact spur type tree, less than 50% the size of a standard Red Delicious on a seedling rootstock. The fruit is similar in size, color, and shape to Starkrimson Red Delicious (Bisbee cultivar).

The variety is being introduced cooperatively by Stark Bro's Nurseries and Orchards Company, Louisiana, Missouri, and Carlton Nursery Company, Dayton, Oregon. Carlton will market the variety as Cascade Compact Red Delicious.

Starkspur® Compact Red Delicious originated as a limb mutation of Starkling Delicious (Mood cultivar) in 1959. The variety was discovered by John Garretson in his orchard in Yakima, Washington and brought to the attention of Everett Brandt, a well-known Parker, Washington, orchardist and sales representative of Carlton Nursery in 1960. The original limb was cut back severely to stimulate growth from the compact slow growing shoots. A year later scionwood was sent to Carlton's Dayton, Oregon, Nursery for budding on various rootstocks. Starting in 1962, trees were topworked and planted in Brandt's Parker, Washington, orchards for long term testing and evaluation.

Subsequent propagations have shown the variety to produce true to form. Compact Red Delicious grows like any other spur type in the nursery but often fruits on 2 year nursery trees. After transplanting in the orchard it is not unusual to develop good spur formation the 1st season and bloom the second growing season even on seedling rootstock. After 18

years of testing, it appears Compact Red Delicious will produce a tree on seedling rootstock 8-10 feet high, very compact, heavily laden with spurs and fruit. On MM-111 rootstock the tree will be smaller.

In 1974 Brandt brought Compact Red Delicious to the attention of Paul Stark, Jr., Vice-President of Stark Bro's. After observation for a number of years, both Brandt and Stark concluded that Starkspur Compact Red Delicious fruit is similar in color, shape, and size to Starkrimson Delicious. Everett Brandt considers Parker, Washington, to be a poor coloring district in the State and is impressed by the high extra fancy color obtained by Starkspur Compact Red Delicious. Paul Stark, Jr., believes this to be the answer to ultra high density plantings and greatest tree efficiency even on preferred Normandy French seedling roots. For fruit growers interested in growing full dwarf trees without the use of currently available size controlling rootstocks and interstems Compact Red Delicious holds much interest and potential. Compact Red Delicious is the first in a series of full genetic dwarf fruit trees to be introduced in the future.

Trees of Compact Red Delicious are being tested in Louisiana, Missouri, and test plantings have also been established at a number of sites in North America.

A plant patent has been applied for and will be assigned to Carlton. A license has been granted to Stark Bro's for sales and distribution in the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

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