

The Hinchliffe Apple

E. M. Hildebrand
Texas Agr. Expt. Sta.
State College, Texas

In January 1948 a student brought in for diagnosis, specimens of a branch canker condition prevalent in his father's orchard at Mexia, Texas. The disease was diagnosed as blotch canker caused by *Phyllosticta solitaria*. Since he seemed much concerned about the canker on a chance seedling in the fence row, further questioning revealed that the seedling was remarkable in several ways. For one thing it had borne nearly four bushels of tasty fruit in 1947 at five years of age. Moreover it started bearing fruit in its second year and was an annual bearer.

A Productive Early Variety

It is interesting to note that this blotch-susceptible seedling tree again bore about four bushels of fruit in 1948.

The fruit had to be picked early, at the end of July, because of severe bird damage. The birds apparently liked the fruit very much for them to start raiding it before it was fully ripe.

Fruit specimens were collected and stored in refrigerators and evaluated as good by several apple horticulturists. Fruits cold stored from July 27 to November 3 were still in fair to good condition. A light red in color, the fruits were rather large, being from between 2½ to 3¼ inches in diameter and slightly larger in diameter than length.

Several horticulturists have voiced the plaint: "What the South needs is a good early apple." This chance seedling discovered by N. N. Hinchliffe may be an important step in that direction. By giving attention to details in control it has been practically freed from the canker disease.

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