



THE JEFFERIS APPLE

By Ira Glackens

Center Conway, New Hampshire

The original Jefferis apple tree was a seedlings on the farm of Isaac Jefferis or Jefferies (the name is variously spelled,) Newlin township, Chester County, Pennsylvania, and was first exhibited a century ago (in 1848) before the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. This organization awarded it a premium as the best seedling apple exhibited that year. In the following year it was included by J. J. Thomas in a new edition of his "American Fruit Culturist," and he said of it, "remarkably tender and juicy, flavor very pleasant." This brought the apple to the attention of a wider audience. Downing in his 1859 edition of "Fruit and Fruit Trees of America", described it, "flesh white, tender, juicy, with a rich mild subacid flavor," and included a line drawing of the fruit.

Forty years after the Jefferis had first come to notice, in 1888, Dr. H. E. Van Deman, U. S. pomologist, reported the variety in the Yearbook of the Dept. of Agriculture, and said: "If I should be asked to select the choicest early autumn apple known to me, I

would say the Jefferis. It has been propagated and planted to a slight extent all over the country and in all cases it has been highly praised. The tree is of upright growth, forming a beautiful head. The twigs are narrow and bright green. . . It begins to bear early and is one of the most constant and abundant bearers of which I have any knowledge. No family orchard should be without it, and for market I have good authority for highly recommending it."

Dr. Van Deman published a colored lithograph of the Jefferis with his report. This is a curious print, wherein the artist had difficulty in representing the rondure of an apple. There is no attempt at shading of color, to give a three-dimensional effect, so that the fruit looks perfectly flat. It is bright red, overlaid with narrow darker stripes, a brighter and darker red than the fruit actually displays. This lithograph exhibits the conspicuous white dots which are characteristic of the variety, and thus a recognizable portrait of the Jefferis is crudely achieved—the only one I believe that this apple ever sat for.

The tree has proved hardy, healthy and vigorous in the White Mountain region of New Hampshire through nine years, and the apples reach perfection here. The fruits are of medium size, or a little below, somewhat oblate, striped with light red on a pale yellow ground. The blossoms are small and inconspicuous, in fact scarcely noticeable, and sometimes it is a surprise to discover that the tree is fairly well supplied with fruit, when an earlier impression was that the crop would be light or absent. The apples hang well to the tree until fully ripe and there is no loss from windfalls. The ripening season in New Hampshire is mid- to late-September and early October, but so far the apples

have all been consumed too soon for a test of their keeping qualities in the home cellar. Beach gives their season as extending to January, but this seems questionable.

The flavor of the Jefferis is mild subacid and refreshing; the juicy pale yellow flesh has a fine, firm, breaking texture, making the apple very agreeable eating.

The tree is widely adaptable and easy to grow. The fruit and foliage are relatively resistant to scab, and the variety is as little trouble to produce as any in a rather large collection. There would seem to be no reason for the lamentable absence of the Jefferis from most nurserymen's catalogues, especially when so many fruits of its season, inferior in eating quality and more difficult to grow, are widely advertised and planted in the home orchard.

The growth of the tree being unusually upright and neat, it would doubtless make a handsome dwarf bush on Malling IX stock, and is likewise probably well adapted to training in cordons and other artificial forms such as is done so skillfully abroad.

The Jefferis, neglected as it is, has not shared the fate of many of our best eating apples for it is still propagated by one or two nurseries. Dwarf trees, on Malling IX stock are, I believe, soon to be offered. The demand for the variety would probably be greater for the home orchard were its good qualities better known. Dr. Van Deman's belief in its commercial po-



Jefferis apple tree illustrating typical upright form of growth.

tentialities were apparently unfounded, possibly due to its protracted ripening period. It should certainly go on any list of standard home orchard apples.



PECAN CULTURE AND GROVE MANAGEMENT

By Otis Woodward. 1949

Ga. Coastal Plain Expt. Sta. Cir. 15, 16 p.

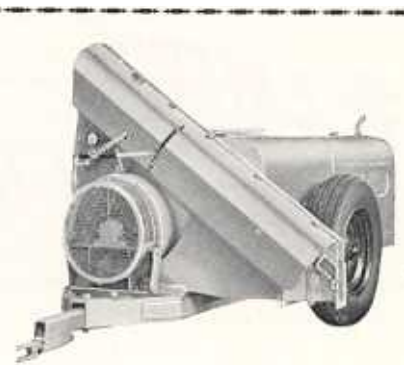
This is a general-information type circular containing condensed but complete instructions for pecan production. The subject matter covered includes soil requirements, varieties, planting, culture and fertilization, insect and disease control, pruning, and harvesting.

Varieties

Many of the well known commercial varieties such as Schley, Moneymaker, Success, Pabst, Mobile, Van Deman, Mahan Alley, and Delmas are so susceptible to scab that they no longer can be grown successfully in the more humid pecan areas, unless sprayed for disease control. Some of the varieties possessing high scab resistance are Stuart, Farley, Desirable, Brooks, Curtis, and Bradley. New plantings should consist primarily of these varieties.

A useful table is included which gives the percent kernel and annual yields of 32 varieties of pecans now growing in the trial grounds of the Georgia Coastal Plains Experiment Station.

A table of contents is included indicating the pages upon which the vari-



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ous items are discussed. Through an editorial oversight the pages of the bulletin were not numbered. This is a minor error which decreases somewhat the ease of using this circular.

This bulletin should be of interest and value to pecan growers in Georgia and neighboring states.

W.P.