

Chick-A-Dee McIntosh: A New Spur-Type Strain

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'Chick-A-Dee McIntosh' is a promising, new spur-type strain of McIntosh, patented in 1984 by Chick Orchard, of Monmouth, Maine. The tree was discovered as a whole-tree sport in a Rogers McIntosh orchard, planted in 1967 on seedling rootstock. Scion wood from this tree was top-worked onto McIntosh seedling bodystocks in 1980 and the spur-type habit was seen to persist after grafting. Budded trees on seedling, M7, and MM111 rootstocks were planted at Chick Orchards in 1982 and at the Maine Agricultural Experiment Station farm (Highmoor) in 1984 for evaluation.

The 'Chick-A-Dee McIntosh' tree is compact on seedling rootstock, is very spurry in growth habit, and has wider crotch angles than 'Rogers McIntosh'. The tree is very slow growing and has needed little or no pruning, due to its horizontal branching habit. The original tree is about half the size of adjacent 'Rogers McIntosh' trees of the same age. There are no data yet on precocity, yield, or fruit characteristics, but no differences have been noted from 'Rogers McIntosh'.

Exclusive propagation rights have been granted to Roaring Brook Nurseries, Monmouth, Maine. The patent description of the original tree was written by James F. Anderson, Department of Plant and Soil Science, University of Massachusetts and is quoted here:

"Shoots: Medium to rather long, medium in thickness, with medium internodes. Bark-bright reddish-reddish olive. Lenticels-medium in number, small, roundish yellowish gray, slightly raised.

Leaves: Petiole-short and rather stout. Blade-large, flat or slightly folded near margin, straight not waved, broad-oval, often cordate at base, spreading rather coarse and thick with considerable pubescence. Serrations-dull, medium in size, quite regular, shallow not very distinct. Surface-rather dull, rather rough with medium pubescence, dark green."

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I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete. L. D. Tukey, Business Manager. September 19, 1985.