

# Fenton,\* a Promising Summer Apple

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I have been carrying on a search during the past 25 years for a more suitable apple variety that ripens in late July or the first part of August in southern Indiana. In the course of this search I have tested at least 75 varieties from different parts of the country. The Fenton apple, which I discovered on the farm of Mr. H. D. Fenton, near Michigan City, Indiana, is the best that I've found. My grafts of this variety at the Bedford Farm of Purdue University should bear a few fruits this year and give us a better idea of its ripening season and color in southern Indiana.

The fruit of Fenton is very similar in size, color and shape to Opalescent. It is large, with a tough waxy skin and brilliant over-all cherry red color. Its season is about 10 days to two weeks before Wealthy. The Fenton apple is juicy, mildly acid, superior to Maiden Blush, Duchess and Wealthy in dessert quality, but not as good as Benoni or Jeffries. The sauce is bright pink and slightly bland in flavor, inferior to Maiden Blush in quality but superior to it in color. Makes a good pie.

A few Fenton apples kept in my home refrigerator at about 44°F for six weeks, and for an additional two weeks at 33°F.

Fenton is resistant but not immune to blight. It seems quite susceptible to cedar rust, but appears to be scab-resistant, comparing with Transparent and York in this respect.

The name of the nursery from which the Fenton was first obtained is

not known. Mr. J. Strong of the Emlong Nursery, Stevensville, Michigan, says that the original tree from which he obtained buds of this variety was located on the farm of John Stump, Sodus, Michigan. The trees propagated from these buds were sold under the name of Early Delicious for several years. Then Mr. Fenton bought four of these trees (now about 10 years old). After his trees had fruited, Mr. Fenton encouraged the Emlong Nursery to continue propagating this variety. It is now called Fenton primarily because Mr. Fenton was the first to recognize its potential value.



## New Tetraploid Grape

The new tetraploid Loretto grape, developed by Haig Dermén, of the United States Department of Agriculture, appears very promising for the deep south. It was obtained by treating the diploid Loretto variety with colchicine.

The tetraploid Loretto seems to have all the desirable characteristics of the original diploid variety—good quality, high yield, and disease resistance. In addition, it produces berries three times as large and bunches two-and-a-half times bigger than those of the diploid Loretto.

\*There is another variety of apple named Fenton which was introduced about 1873, but is now obsolete.

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