

Dwarf Apples in Northwest

L. L. VAN ROECHOUT

Okanagan Centre, Washington

In January 1950 we experienced in Okanagan the worst winter in fifty years, the minimum temperatures oscillating between 22 and 35 below zero F. Trunk injury was severe especially on varieties like Red Delicious, Rome Beauty, but no root injury was recorded. There was a snow cover at the time. At the Summerland they experienced 22 below, the Malling IX were not injured although the snow cover was only a few inches thick.

This opens the question of cold hardiness of the existing clonal roots. So far I have not read anything very substantial on this important subject. I read somewhere that Malling VII was exceptionally hardy. In Vernon I know of a few McIntosh trees on Malling I; they came through 35°F. below zero without any root damage, there was about a foot of snow cover. So, personally, I am inclined to think that one can go ahead with most of the Malling roots provided one can rely on snow protection. Reciprocal influence on the scion for winter hardiness seems favorable with Malling IX roots. Red Delicious on this stock appears to me as more resistant than on ordinary seedling roots; the reason being probably that the scion wood matures earlier in the fall.

Theoretically Malling VII should give a half-sized tree; Malling II, two-thirds of a normal standard. This latter type, beside good fruiting habits appears to be resistant to collar-rot under Okanagan conditions. This is of course a very valuable feature here.

Since I settled down in this place I have started experimenting with Mal-

ling IX, VII and II. My oldest plantings are only five years old, so no conclusion can be drawn, but their behavior is all right and very promising. Considerable interest has recently developed in the semi-dwarfs in the Okanagan, and most of the replantings, or new plantings, are made on Malling II. Myself, I feel that Malling IX and IV have a bright future. My Red Delicious cordons on IX gave me approximately one box per tree after the 4th year; Golden Delicious gave me one box after the 3rd year. They were trellised on wire and planted four feet apart in the row, with rows ten or twelve feet apart. Where could you pick close to nine hundred boxes per acre after the fourth growing season? The objection is of course the planting costs. But what does it cost you to wait ten or twelve years for trees on seedling stocks? Will we, ten years from now, find the labor willing to climb 14 or 16 foot ladders?



New Strawberry For Western Washington

A new strawberry named Pudget Beauty has been released by the State College of Washington. It is a cross between Sparkle and US-Ore 1765. The fruit is described by its originators as being "extremely sweet and very attractive". It is red stele resistant, has grown well on heavy, poorly drained soils in western Washington. It freezes well. Pudget Beauty is being recommended for trial as a commercial berry in red stele infested soils and as a home garden variety for western Washington.