

not seem as dependably productive and is not so good a dessert apple, though it is higher colored and a good culinary apple.

We hope that Dermen in obtaining tetraploids for use in breeding may help with the answer for new varieties but, commercially, that will be twenty to thirty years hence. If and when he gets a full tetraploid Winesap for breeders to cross with diploids to make unlimited numbers of triploids like Stayman, Turley, Arkansas, and much better ones, the answer will come.

But we need better evaluation of the varieties and selections that are now in sight. Rome has been one of the most dependably profitable varieties but I dislike to think of this eastern United States having Rome as the major variety for the next fifty years. I doubt whether Rome would compete with oranges and other fruits which have improved notably in quality in recent years. Comparing Rome (its red sports, of course) with other varieties that might be planted to replace it or Stayman, what suggestions can be seriously offered? Do we have enough tests and information to answer the question?

There are at least four good looking Rome crosses—one each at the New Jersey, Virginia, and Ohio Stations and one at the Downing Fruit Farm in Ohio. Maybe a good project to start with—you could start it—would be a careful survey of the tree and fruit qualities of each, first by those

knowing these varieties and then by a group. Would the apple industry be in a better competitive position with one or more of these extensively raised?

Of course, other varieties should be surveyed. The Melrose, of Ohio, is promising. If it has good enough color generally and is productive, I would think it might be an improvement over Stayman and Baldwin in some area, for it is better quality (to me), better size, and better for handling. This is, of course, only one of many new varieties to be compared.

As you know, I am interested in pears also and perhaps more pear meetings like that held by Drain at Knoxville in 1945 would be helpful.

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Pears in Southeast Alabama

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

Leaf-spot is second only to fire blight as a pear pest in our humid section. Bartlett seedlings are so badly affected that it is impractical to grow them. Many strains of Pineapple pear are defoliated by the time fruit ripens in July or August. Orient is, of course, resistant and I believe Baldwin is affected even less. It is my candid opinion, in fact, that Baldwin, where it can be grown, is the better pear.

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