The Baxter Black Winesap Apple

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This chance seedling came up about 1900 close by the place where an Arkansas* tree had stood in an orchard of Mr. C. J. Baxter, Nauvoo, Hancock County, Illinois. Since the seedling tree did not interfere with any orchard operation it was allowed to grow. By 1910 or 1911 it had produced its first crop. For a few years no particular attention was given the fruit because it closely resembled the Arkansas fruit harvested from the orchard. Within a few years it was found that the seedling was a good producer and the fruit had exceptional keeping qualities even when stored in a basement. Because of its excellent keeping qualities enough trees were propagated in 1930 to set about one-third of a ten-acre block. After these trees came into bearing the seedling was referred to as Baxter Black Winesap, and later given the name. The variety was named after the family, its very dark color and the similarity in shape to apples in the Winesap group. A patent was secured for the variety in 1944 (U.S. Plant Pat. 619) and assigned to the Gem City Vineland Company, Nauvoo, Illinois. Trees were first listed for sale by the above company in 1947.

The tree has a spreading habit of growth. The height of a 17-year-old tree is about the same as the spread. Scaffold branches form wide angles and are firmly knit with the trunk. To date no splitting of branches has been observed. Very few water sprouts have developed. Trees have proved to be winter hardy. Following the cold of November 11-15, 1940, no injury was found on Baxter Black Winesap whereas in the same area several other varieties were severely injured and some were killed. The general appearance of the tree is much like the Stayman.

Baxter Black Winesap fruit is large, roundish, slightly conic, fairly uniform in shape and size, with a medium length stem. The smooth, medium thick skin is dark red to almost black on fully exposed fruits. After storage for a few months the skin becomes very waxy. The medium fine grained flesh is very firm, moderately juicy, and of good quality. Flesh of immature fruit is pale yellow with a decided tinge of green. Fruits picked in a mature condition lose most or all of the green tinge in two to three months. The fruit hangs on the tree exceptionally well even after it is mature. This characteristic might not be so evident with trees planted farther south where the fruits would be subjected to higher temperatures. This is a very late maturing variety, the harvesting period coming after the Winesap. In shape, size and color the variety is very similar to Arkansas.

In storage tests at Urbana, Illinois,

*Synonym for Arkansas is "Mammoth Black Twig."—Ed.

fruit has been held at 32°-35°F. in excellent condition for six months. One year they were kept at the above temperature for more than eight months and at the end of this period they showed very little evidence of shriveling or storage diseases. Some scald has shown up after a long storage period.

Injury to foliage and fruits by spray materials has not been observed. The variety appears to be resistant to the diseases common to the area, the more important being scab and fire blight.

The period of bloom overlaps the blooming period of Cortland, Wealthy, Delicious, Golden Delicious, Turley and Jonathan. Two years of pollinating tests show the variety to be self-unfruitful. Neither has it proven to be a good pollinator on several varieties on which it was used. Varieties of little value as pollinators on Baxter Black Winesap include Rhode Island Greening, Red Duchess, Yellow Transparent, Ben Davis, Winter Banana and Turley. Varieties giving satisfactory commercial sets include Jonathan, Cortland and Wealthy. Delicious, Richared, Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, Red McIntosh, Blackmack, York-a-Red, Willow Twig and Red Rome each gave sets in excess of a commercial crop.

Since the variety has a very long growing season it should not be planted in areas where other very late maturing varieties fail to mature properly.

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Introduction of Two New Blueberry Varieties Adapted to North Carolina

The Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering of the United States Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station have released for propagation two new varieties of blueberries, named MURPHY and WOLCOTT.

These varieties resulted from a cross of Weymouth x F-6. F-6 was obtained from a cross of Stanley x Crabbe 4. Crabbe 4 is a selection from the wild in eastern North Carolina. These two varieties, MURPHY and WOLCOTT, were selected in 1939 from seedlings grown at Atkinson, North Carolina. They are being introduced as canker-resistant varieties for trial in comparison with Weymouth, June, and Stanley.