

'TropicSweet' Apple¹

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Abstract

'TropicSweet' apple (*Malus domestica* Borkh.) produces a medium size, sweet tasting fruit. It has a low winter chilling requirement and is recommended for trial where 'Anna' apple is adapted.

Additional index words. Fruit breeding, low chilling.

Origin

'TropicSweet' originated from a 1986 polycross off selections from N.J. 38 x 'Anna' made in 1975. It was selected at Gainesville in 1990 and tested as Fla. 90-3.

Description

Trees of 'TropicSweet' flower and leaf with 'Anna' (estimated about 250 chill units), and full bloom typically occurs in mid-February at Gainesville. Trees are moderately vigorous, semi-spreading, semi-spur type, and have precocious flowering. Trees fruit when 2 years old (3rd leaf in the field) on seedling rootstock. Trees observed under field conditions for 5 years appear to be resistant to powdery mildew incited by *Podosphaera leucotricha* (Ell. and Ev.) Salm., and fire blight incited by *Erwinia amylovora* (Burr.) Winslow. Flowers are large and

light pink, appearing similar to 'Anna'. Trees are not self fertile, but are cross fertile with 'Anna' and 'Dorsett Golden' in hand pollinations. Vigorous, one year stems have numerous orange-colored lenticels in early summer which fade to whitish by late autumn. Fruit are medium in size (about 7 cm. diameter or similar to 'Dorsett Golden' when thinned to 2 to 3 fruit per spur). Round-conic fruit average slightly less red overcolor than 'Anna', but are rated in the field to be firmer and taste sweeter. Fruit sugar levels are typically 14 to 15° brix, but low acidity results in a sweet taste even in green fruit 2 weeks before harvest. Fruit ripen in early June, approximately 105 to 110 days after full bloom at Gainesville (30° N lat.) or about 5 to 7 days prior to 'Anna'.

Availability

Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32443 has applied for a plant patent under the designation Fla.90-3. Non-indexed budwood has been released to participating nurseries under a propagation agreement and trees are expected to be available beginning winter 1996-97.

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