

Some Red Sport Apples May Have Extra Value for Breeding

In a letter, July 25, 1951, referring to the Max-Red Bartlett and Royal Red Hardy pears, Dr. Reimer adds the following comments:

"These two red fruited strains definitely originated as bud mutations. As shown in the article these mutations have transmitted certain characteristics to a high percentage of their seedlings. This, I understand, has not proved to be the case with the highly colored red sports in apples which originated as bud mutations. A possible exception may be the Gallia Beauty apple.

This variety produces about ten times as many red fruited seedlings as does the Rome Beauty, in the work at the Ohio Station. For that reason the Ohio people concluded that Gallia Beauty is probably a seedling of Rome Beauty rather than a bud mutation of the variety. I now wonder whether that assumption is correct."

Dr. Reimer, though retired from the Station at Medford, continues his pear breeding, and now has seedlings from crosses between Max-Red Bartlett and Royal Red Hardy mutations, we hear.—J. C. McD.



Color or Flavor?

Dr. Frederick Nilson, of the Akarp, Sweden, Experiment Station, lectured last year at Michigan State College. He showed pictures of their best quality apples. The fruits shown were of greenish ground color with faint cheek blush or no red at all. A Michigan student asked the question:

"Dr. Nilson, why are buyers in Sweden satisfied with medium sized green colored or slightly blushed fruit?"

—Long pause.

Dr. N.: "Oh! You Americans want only large, highly colored fruit of exterior quality, and have discarded all your best flavored and best juice varieties.

"In Sweden and most of Europe, people are only interested in high flavor, melting juicy texture, best for culinary, eating or cider flavor. We use the skin for jellies or animal feed. We're not interested in skin quality."—Contributed by H. A. Cardinell.