

A Grower Panel from Ohio Discusses Apple Varieties and Rootstocks

Varieties

The selection of varieties remains one of the basic things to be decided in planting orchards. We may summarize the thinking of the men on this panel as follows:

Rouster from southwestern Ohio lists Rome Beauty, Stayman Wine-sap, Jonathan, Delicious and Turley, as the principal varieties. In some instances he prefers the red strains of the old standards. Rouster thinks Harrison's Extra Red Delicious is one of the best of the red strains of Delicious. He reports that Turley makes a better root system than Stayman under their conditions, but that the fruit of Turley sometimes breaks down in storage. He prefers Scarlet Stamared to Stayman or the other red strains of that variety. Kendall has been the best of the McIntosh type apples tried.

A list which would give a pretty good statewide picture of the variety situation would include Rome Beauty, Gallia or Red Rome; Jonathan or a red strain; Golden Delicious and Stayman, preferably a red strain; Delicious or a red strain; Turley, Cortland and Kendall in a small way. Transparent and Wealthy remain as the best of the earlier varieties with perhaps Lodi gaining on Transparent.

Rootstocks

Mr. Lewis feels that the best dwarf of our common varieties is obtained on Malling VII. He says that Malling VII results in a mature tree about the size of a four year old peach tree.

The Clark dwarfing stock has received considerable attention. Some of this stock has been planted in Ohio, but is not old enough to justify any conclusions. This type was first developed by H. Walton Clark, an amateur horticulturist connected with the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. The original dwarf tree from which the stock originated was supposed to have come from South America. Clark found it in a garden in Muscatine, Iowa. Prof. Maney of the Iowa Station successfully propagated the tree in 1934. It was used mainly as an intermediate stock and the Iowa station has continued to use the Clark for this purpose. It apparently produces a tree 10 to 12 feet high which is winter hardy.

There is a very definite place for hardy interstocks in Ohio, but whether for small growing tops remains to be seen. At any rate, some planting of the dwarfing types, whether Malling VII or IX or Clark, seems justified.—Reported by C. W. Ellenwood in the Eastern Fruit Grower.