

New Apple Varieties in Wisconsin

H. J. RAHMLow, Madison, Wisconsin

About 15 years ago, the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society first appointed a fruit testing committee to visit experiment stations in the northern states engaged in producing new apple and other fruit varieties. The object was to study and introduce for trial purposes such varieties that the committee thought might have possibilities in this state. We visited the experiment stations in Minnesota, Iowa, Ohio, New York and also Ottawa, Canada. The trips were continued for five or six years. Each year a number of varieties were chosen for trial. Our members were asked to purchase not more than two trees of each variety. They were to pay one-half of the cost, the Wisconsin State Horticultural Society paying the balance.

The project was quite successful. The varieties were also tested in the orchard of the Department of Horticulture of the University of Wisconsin, where they were studied critically.

The following are some of the varieties which have been recommended and found suitable for growing in this state.

Early McIntosh and *Milton* from the New York Experiment Station and *Melba* from the Canadian Experiment Station at Ottawa have found a home in Wisconsin. They are now considered to be the best quality early apple varieties we can grow here. They are recommended above any others to those who wish to plant early varieties.

Cortland was also recommended at that time, although a few larger plantings had already been made a few years earlier. This variety is now next to

McIntosh and *Wealthy* among Wisconsin's leading apples in commercial production.

Macoun is considered one of the best eating varieties we have recommended. Growers would like to plant a larger acreage of it were it not for its biennial bearing habit and early dropping.

*Secor** from the Iowa Experiment Station is considered the best late-keeping variety we have, in Wisconsin. In the Fort Atkinson section of the state a number of growers planted a small acreage and speak very highly of it because it keeps so late—into March and April, and has excellent quality.

Orleans and *Newfane* (both Delicious seedlings from New York) were tested, and while some growers liked these varieties, they have not met with general favor.

Lobo and *Hume*, from the Ottawa Experiment Station, were introduced into the Bayfield section of northern Wisconsin, where they are meeting with favor as varieties of the McIntosh type maturing with and after *Wealthy*; of excellent quality and color. In this section, *Wealthy* becomes a fall apple, and *McIntosh* a winter apple.

Haralson, from the Minnesota Experiment Station, is grown in some sections of Wisconsin where the climate is too rigorous for *McIntosh*. It does not do well in all parts of the state. A number of other Minnesota varieties are still on trial and are meeting with favor where soils and climatic conditions are favorable for them.

*See article on another page for more about *Secor*.—Editor.