

# Delcon, A New Semi-dwarf Apple

PAUL H. SHEPARD

Missouri State Fruit Experiment Station, Mountain Grove, Mo.

In recent years, commercial and amateur fruit growers have shown considerable interest in the possibilities of developing a smaller than standard apple tree. According to Tukey, Malling IX has shown the greatest promise as a rootstock for a very dwarf apple tree for the home garden. Malling I seems to be an outstanding possibility as a semi-dwarfing rootstock for commercial planting in this country.

The greatest obstacle in developing these Malling rootstocks has been propagation difficulties. Good varieties which are smaller than standard and can be successfully grafted to most rootstocks, still retaining the dwarf characteristics, would eliminate the seriousness of the propagation problem. At the same time fruit growers would be getting the smaller trees that they want.

With the above discussion in mind, I would like to call to your attention the Delcon variety which has been developed by the Missouri State Fruit Experiment

Station. The Delcon is a cross of Conard by Delicious. Conard is a cross of Ben Davis by Jonathan. The original Delcon tree, now 33 years old, is half the size of a normal Delicious tree in height and spread. It could probably be described as a semi-dwarf. This semi-dwarf habit has occurred on all the rootstocks we have used in propagation. The fruit is of medium size and red, shaped like Delicious. It ripens with Jonathan and is excellent in quality. Its flavor could possibly be described as a mixture of Delicious and Jonathan. It is a fair keeper, January being its storage limit in Missouri. The fruit set is heavy. It bears much of its fruit terminally. The branches are thin and droopy.

We introduced this variety as a possible addition to home orchard plantings. It may, however, be worth testing for commercial plantings as well, where a smaller than standard tree is desirable. Several nurseries in Missouri and Iowa are selling Delcon trees.

## Three New Blueberries Introduced for New Jersey Growers

Three new blueberry varieties are being introduced for use in New Jersey by the Agricultural Experiment Station of Rutgers University in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, according to Dr. W. H. Martin, Station director.

They are *Earliblue*, an early variety, *Bluecrop*, a mid-season variety, and *Herbert*, a late variety. All of them are considered equal or superior to varieties now being grown at the same seasons, and are expected to further improve the cultivated highbush blueberry industry in New Jersey.

## To Liberty Hyde Bailey— On His 90th Birthday in 1948

God placed on earth plants and flowers  
without end  
Then in their midst placed thee the kindly friend  
To show us humans what within them  
lies;  
Great teacher, poet, writer ever wise  
Of thee, thy strength, thy work without  
a flaw  
Our country, yes, the world stands much  
in awe  
Hoping that time will hold its hasty  
flight  
And guard thy footsteps through each  
day and night.

—CERELL H. HEINLE (Cornell '32)