

Apple Varieties for Wisconsin

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To introduce a new fruit variety is one problem. To prove that this new fruit variety has value in a specific area of the country is another problem.

New varieties are announced at a remarkable pace by both public and private agencies. Keeping abreast of the field is a nearly full-time job. This is a constant challenge to the professional horticulturist as well as the commercial grower.

From these many introductions, only a few prove to have superior merit and remain as permanent members of our variety lists for many years. Such apples as Delicious, Winesap, and McIntosh rate this superior classification.

Wisconsin apple growers rely on McIntosh, Cortland, Wealthy, Red and Golden Delicious, Northwestern Greening, and Snow varieties for commercial production. All of these varieties have proven their value over the years. But Snow, Wealthy, and Northwestern Greening are declining in popularity.

Observations in the University trial orchard at Madison and in grower orchards around the state indicate that other varieties have sufficient merit to be worthy of more extended trial in some areas of Wisconsin. A brief evaluation of these varieties with comments on their apparent adaptability follows.

Mantet—an open pollinated seedling of Tetofski, introduced by the Morden Manitoba Station in 1929. This promising variety has received too little attention since its introduction. Mantet has an attractive pinkish

red blush over a yellow under color. The fruit averages above 2½ inches in size and is oblong. It is crisp, juicy, sprightly and very good in dessert quality for an apple of this season. At Madison, it matures in early August. This variety is worthy of more extensive trial for local market production in all areas of Wisconsin.

Beacon—an open pollinated seedling of Malinda, introduced by the Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm in 1936. At Madison, this variety has been small and poorly colored with a tough skin and inferior quality fruit. In areas north of Madison, Beacon produces fruit of better quality, size, and color and has received a ready acceptance in the market. Beacon matures about August 20 in the Madison area. It is recommended for planting in northern and western sections of the state where a well-colored apple of this season is desired.

Franklin—a cross of Delicious and McIntosh, introduced by the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station in 1938. The variety has been fruited for two years at Madison, but it has exhibited attractive red color, smooth finish, and excellent dessert quality. Franklin matures nearly three weeks later than McIntosh. The fruit size has not been uniform, but this may be due to the age of the trees. Outstanding quality and appearance make it a very promising variety in Wisconsin.

Idared—a cross of Jonathan and Wagener, introduced by the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station in 1942. This variety has not been fruited in the Madison orchard, but several

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growers around the state have grown it and are enthusiastic about its merits. Idared is an attractive bright red, medium size, with very good dessert and culinary quality. Southern Wisconsin growers should consider this late, good keeping variety for local market as well as for shipment.

Crandall—a cross of Rome Beauty and Jonathan, introduced by the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station in 1953. Crandall matures about October 15 in southern Wisconsin. It is moderately well colored, with a bright attractive red blush over green, medium to large, smooth and uniform in shape. The fruit is juicy, slightly aromatic, mild sub-acid, very good in quality, and stores well. The young trees have borne early and annually. This variety has merit in southern Wisconsin and other similar areas where a late maturing, red variety is desired.

Connell Red—a red sport of Fireside, introduced by Connell, Schneider, and Connell, Menomonie, Wisconsin in 1957. This smooth, well colored, late, hardy variety has promise for planting in northern and western areas of Wisconsin. Connell Red has not fruited at Madison. Fireside, the parent variety, does not develop good color or quality in the Madison area so we suggest limited trial of the Connell Red in the southern part of Wisconsin until further information is available.

Secor—the result of a cross of Salome and Jonathan, introduced by the Iowa Agricultural Experiment Station in 1922. This is a late, high quality, red-striped apple with excellent storage properties. Although susceptible to fire blight in Iowa (F. V. H. D. May, 1957), it has not exhibited this weakness in the planting at Madison. It has been fully hardy over a period of 25 years in the

orchard at Madison. Several growers in the eastern section of the state find Secor a desirable late keeping variety for local market sale. Because of its long season, it is suggested only for the southern part of the state.

The varieties discussed above have sufficient merit to be worthy of more extensive trial in the areas suggested for each variety. Only by more extensive planting in grower orchards will we be able to determine the ultimate place of these varieties in our apple variety picture.

Hardiness in Apple Rootstocks

G. M. Weiss reports differences in take of buds on seven rootstocks in the nursery of the Summerland Experiment Station, in British Columbia, following the November 1955 freeze. The trees had been budded in August 1955. Malling Merton 106 appeared very hardy. M.M.104 and Antonovka seedling rootstocks showed a satisfactory take of buds, Malling VII gave a 50% take, but buds on Malling II and M.XXV and M.M.109 did not take well.

Earlydawn strawberry proved very promising in recent tests at Prosser, Washington. It produced good crops of large, attractive berries early in the season. Flowers were protected from frost and wind by abundant, erect foliage.

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