

The berries are of medium size, firm, of good eating quality, and characterized by the prominence of their achenes or "seeds." The frozen berries of Sparkle are above average in quality.

Temple is a variety that produces a medium sized, firm, bright red, attractive, high quality berry, well suited for table use and for freezing. In Ohio it has proved to be a vigorous plant maker, but unreliable in fruit production. Although its value as a commercial variety in this state is doubtful except in certain local areas, Temple is still considered worthy of trial because of its outstanding fruit characteristics.

Vermillion was one of the less productive of the tested varieties during the 1952 season, producing only 3,291 quarts

per acre. Yet in 1953 it was the top yielding variety, producing 7,357 quarts per acre. Its berries were of medium size and bright, but tended to be soft and of only fair eating quality. The frozen berries of this variety were only fair in quality. Although Vermillion requires more extensive testing it appears to be worthy of trial in Ohio on a limited basis.

Of all the red stele resistant strawberry varieties under test at Wooster, Fairland was found to be the best both for commercial and home garden production. Of the remaining varieties, Red Crop appeared to be the most promising, and although Sparkle and Temple were also good, they weren't as productive. Aberdeen and Pathfinder were not found suitable for Ohio production.

More About the Melrose Apple

Additional information dealing with the Melrose apple recently published by F. S. Howlett and T. E. Fowler in Ohio Farm and Home Research, merits our attention.

The Melrose, it will be recalled,* is a very attractive Jonathan type apple resulting from a cross between Jonathan and Delicious.

The fruit of Melrose handle well in the fresh state. Tests have also shown that in addition to being a good cooking apple, this variety is excellent for freezing, being equal to Stayman Winesap and better than Baldwin.

It is of interest that although both parents bloom in midseason, Melrose is late blooming, being comparable to Rome Beauty.

Melrose offers little labor competition to our present commercial varieties at harvest, since its average picking date (Sept. 10 at Wooster, Ohio) falls after Jonathan and Delicious and just before Stayman Winesap and Rome Beauty.

Harvest and storage studies indicate that Melrose should be picked mid-October or later. Pressure tests show that it will keep as well as Rome Beauty in storage. It is almost free of Jonathan Spot and has never shown scald in storage.

From a disease standpoint, however, it is more susceptible to scab than Jonathan, and is also subject to surface russetting under conditions favorable to its development.

There is no evidence that Melrose is as late in bearing as Delicious or as uncertain in setting fruit. It appears to bear annually.

Pollination studies during two seasons have shown that Melrose pollen is highly viable, that it is compatible with Jonathan, Rome Beauty and Gallia Beauty, but not with Delicious.

Although more extensive trials throughout the country still have to be made, the favorable reports that have come in are very promising for the future of the Melrose apple.

*See F.V.H.D. Vol. 1, No. 4: p. 92 (1946).