

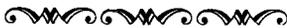
Performance of the Spencer Apple in Massachusetts

We obtained our first fruit of Spencer in 1950 from trees top-worked in 1946. Since that date, we have become increasingly impressed with the performance of Spencer. The trees have produced annual crops of large well-colored apples.

The most outstanding characteristics of Spencer are its high fruit quality and its ability to retain this quality over a long storage season. We have not observed any of the storage disorders such as internal breakdown and core flush which have been reported from British Columbia. It may be that our soil and climatic conditions in Massachusetts are not conducive to these troubles. We find that Spencer keeps well until the middle of March in regular 32° F. storage.

Spencer not only has fine eating quality but it makes excellent pie and sauce. It appears to have inherited much of the flavor and quality of its Golden Delicious parent.

Spencer has a tendency to produce some fruits which are too large for commercial trade. Our trees have produced a considerable volume of fruit over 3¼" in diameter. The red color of some Spencer fruits is a bit on the pale side. Also, the shape of the fruit may be somewhat objectionable as it is quite long. However, none of these weak points of Spencer are serious and we believe that it has possibilities as a high-quality, late winter apple.—*W. D. Weeks, Univ. of Mass., Amherst, Mass.*



Peach Varieties in Indiana

With us, *Fairhaven* and *Jubilee* are not too far apart on bud hardiness, but *Jubilee* sizes up at picking time and *Fairhaven* does not. *Fairhaven* is not the variety we will set again. *Hale-*

haven is so erratic in its behavior on our soil that we no longer try to grow it. We use *Burbank July Elberta* instead, which is better in every respect so far as color, quality and hardiness are concerned. However, it does seem to have brown rot susceptibility.

Most of the New Jersey peaches are too tender, with a few notable exceptions. *Pioneer* is hardiest of all whites except *Marquette* (and that one is too fuzzy). *Cumberland* and *Radiance* are hardy, as in *Eclipse*. *Triogen* might pass muster—it sure is a desirable peach.

Of the Merrill peaches, we have not had *49er*, but we have fruited *Merrill's June*, *Beauty*, *Golden Rose*, and *Gold Rush*. All have good quality, are reasonably hardy in bud, but have all quickly shown damaged wood in sub-zero temperatures.

We have but one tree of *Loring*, a good peach, but not dependably hardy. I suspect that this variety may need careful regulation of nutrients because of its erratic susceptibility to low temperature injury. *Ozark* seems dependably hardy, a good producer, with pleasing quality and a near ideal tree, but the fruit is not too attractive.—*E. J. Downing, Downing Fruit Farm, Rte. 1, New Madison, Ohio.*



Idared Apple

W. J. Lord has the following to say about the Idared apple: "Idared is one of the newer fruit varieties worthy of trial in Massachusetts. The fruit has an attractive bright red finish. Fruit quality is good but somewhat on the mild side. It has a long storage season. Harvest season is early October. Idared is one of the more promising late keeping dessert and general purpose apples." (Fruit Notes, March 15, 1960)