

The Lodi and Fenton Apples as Dwarfs on the EM IX Rootstock

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Two American varieties of apple which seem especially happy on the EM IX rootstock are Lodi and Fenton.

The former is an early yellow apple maturing perhaps ten days later than Yellow Transparent. It was originated by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. The fruit is large in size, symmetrical, attractive clear yellow in color, and excellent for both eating out of hand and for sauce and pies. Sauce put up in quart containers and frozen for home use is a most outstanding article.

Fenton ripens about the middle of August—about ten days to two weeks before Wealthy. The apple is juicy, mildly subacid, superior to Maiden Blush, Oldenburg and Wealthy in dessert quality, but not as good as Melba. It makes an attractive bright pink sauce which is somewhat bland in flavor, inferior to Maiden Blush in quality but superior to it in color. It makes good pies.

There has been some confusion about the name of this variety. The Fenton was secured by the late C. L. Burkholder of Purdue University from the farm of H. D. Fenton near Michigan City, Indiana. The tree had been secured from a nursery, but no one knew the name of the variety. Now it appears that this may be the Beacon, introduced by the Minnesota Agriculture Experiment Station in 1936. At all events, both Beacon and Fenton are so nearly alike that it is impossible to tell them apart.

Both Lodi and Fenton are similar

in tree and growth characters which make them especially useful for the dwarf orchard, especially for garden planting. The trees are vigorous growers. Shoot growth is strong. The angle of branching is wide, so that there is no trouble with awkward crotches. The leaves are large and luxurious. The trees shape themselves in beautiful bush forms with a minimum of pruning. Trees carry fruit the first year set, although it is best to remove both blossoms and fruit the first year, so that the trees will not hurt themselves in fruiting before they have become well established. Anyone who understands the language of apple trees and can hear them talk will hear them say, "We surely like this EM IX rootstock—it suits us fine!"



Flavor Problem in Breeding Nectarines

Fred W. Anderson, private fruit breeder of Le Grand, California, makes some interesting comments on nectarine breeding in the September, 1960 issue of the *Western Fruit Grower*. He is quoted as saying that although the newer, yellow-fleshed varieties have been successful commercially, they lack flavor. He points out that good flavor in nectarine is linked with white flesh and has not been obtained in yellow-fleshed varieties. The industry finds yellow-fleshed varieties more acceptable because they do not show bruises as easily as do white varieties.

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