

New Apple Breeding Program in the Southeast

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Although in recent years Georgia has not been considered a commercial apple producing state, thirty years ago it had many important apple plantings. There were two major reasons for this rapid decline in apple production. First, fruit rots are a major problem in this southern area; and thirty years ago there were no commercially available fungicides that would adequately control these rots. Secondly, fluctuating spring temperatures in this area create an extreme frost hazard at blossoming time for most varieties.

In recent years apple black rot studies at the Georgia Mountain Experiment Station have led to the development of a spray program for the growers, which reduces the seriousness of the first problem.

In the spring of 1960 a project was started at the Georgia Mountain Experiment Station, Blairsville, Georgia, to breed apples that are well adapted to this region. This is a cooperative project between the Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station.

The objectives of this program are to develop late blooming, high quality, early maturing, disease resistant varieties of apple that are well adapted to the southeastern apple section. A red apple with good culinary and dessert qualities that will withstand normal handling and marketing is desired; and earliness is needed to fill a vacancy in the fresh apple market. Late blossoming is required to help

eliminate the hazard of late spring frost; and disease resistance, especially to fireblight, is necessary in this section.

Through the cooperation of the Horticulture Department of the Virginia Agriculture Experiment Station, crosses were made at Blacksburg, Virginia in the spring of 1960. Crosses will continue to be made in Virginia until the variety planting in Georgia starts fruiting.

It is hoped that with new and better varieties, adequate pest control, and better cultural practices, apples will again become a major crop in Georgia and the Southeast.



Strawberry Varieties for Freezing

Ohio horticulturists R. G. Hill, Jr., and M. P. Baldauf have reported on the suitability of thirteen commercial strawberry clones for freezing. They have rated Early Dawn, Pocahontas, Fairfax, Surecrop and Sparkle as good; Empire, Erie, Robinson, Vermillion—fair; and Premier, Catskill, Armore and Plentiful—poor.



The following summer apple varieties are being recommended by W. A. Luce, Extension Fruit Specialist, for eastern Washington: Lodi, Beacon, Red Wealthy and Tydman's Red.

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