

A Report on Some of the Newer Apple Varieties in Vermont

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Two years ago I reported at the New York Fruit Testing Association meeting in Geneva and also through the columns of "Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest" on how some of the newer apple varieties were doing in Vermont. I would now like to bring those observations up-to-date.

We like the **Lodi** for the early local market. It is productive and attains good size without too much thinning. We follow Lodi with **Red Astrachan**, **Early McIntosh** and **Milton**—to precede McIntosh, our main crop variety. We are looking for something to replace Red Astrachan and are trying the 0-292 from Canada and the Wellington from New York State have not fruited either as yet.

Melba is too soft for our trade and **New York 16884** does not seem to stand up much better. The large fruits on our young trees of New York 16884 broke down in about a week after picking (without cold storage). However, this New York cross of Lodi $\times$ Melba is productive, attractive, of good quality, and shows considerable promise as an early local market variety to precede Early McIntosh.

Puritan (Mass.) ripens rather close to Early McIntosh. On Aug. 12, 1960 we picked about one-half of the Puritan crop and on Aug. 15 made the first sizable picking of Early Macs. We think the Early McIntosh is to be preferred—being of better quality, more uniform shape and fully as attractive in color as the Puritan.

New York 49-19 (Cortland $\times$ Lodi) has fruited for us for several years. Its season is about with Milton. Although it is of good quality, fairly attractive and apparently an annual bearer, we

believe that Milton will be preferred by most growers.

Davey (Mass.) has shown some cracking about the calyx end, and some russett due to light frost near bloom, in three years out of ten. Hence, we decided last spring to graft over some hundred of our younger Davey trees to several of the Red Delicious strains. I would say, however, that our 1960 crop of Davey were very smooth and of fine appearance; but with C. A. Storage for McIntosh now available, there is not now as much need for an apple of this season as formerly.

For late season the **Melrose** and **Idared** are gaining in favor. Retail customers who have tried the Melrose are calling for them again. The **Ruby** makes a fine appearance and with some thinning develops good size and a beautiful color. However, the quality is inferior to that of Melrose. We believe also that the Melrose will be an annual bearer and require much less thinning than either Ruby or Idared.

Our **Royal Red Delicious** grafts produced over a bushel of large fruits in 1960. However, the color was quite dark—almost as dark as Starking. We are therefore wondering if this strain of Delicious has any advantages over Richared or Vance for our area.

Spartan is still on trial. Fruits average too small on the older grafts. However, the young trees planted in 1954 are producing some very beautiful apples, most of them from $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches to 3 inches in size.



The French Lambertin Nursery grows and exhibits fruits of its best varieties annually in key French cities.