

An Apple Sport with Misshapen Fruit*

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Mutations or sports of fruits involving change in over-color have been of great importance to the fruit growing industry. Perhaps the greatest number of color sports in the apple have been found in Delicious. These sports have been of interest and value because of the increased percentage and intensity of the red skin color of the fruit. Unfortunately, many of these red sports of Delicious have been found to revert to the parent type, which has led to speculation that they may be mericlinal chimeras.

Many undesirable mutations of fruits involving other characteristics, such as poor color, off-flavor, and misshapen fruits have been found, but have received little attention. Einset and Pratt*** described six natural sports of Rhode Island Greening, McIntosh, and Northern Spy, and one sport of Cortland, which appeared following irradiation. The stability of these misshapen fruits was studied and

the authors concluded that they were probably periclinal chimeras.

In 1960, one small branch in a fourteen-year-old Arkansas Black apple tree grown in the New Mexico State University Agricultural Experiment Station orchard produced eight apples, all of which were misshapen. The fruits were all longitudinally furrowed, forming three distinct lobes. The size and color of these fruits compared favorably with other fruits on the tree. However, they matured earlier.

Trees will be propagated from buds on this branch in order to determine the stability of the sport.

Hungary's Best Apricot

Among the few fruit varieties handled by the Wayside Gardens, of Mentor, Ohio, is the apricot called Hungary's Best.

It was imported from Hungary many years ago by Mr. Horvath, of rose fame. Mr. Horvath, who was a personal friend of Mr. J. J. Grullemans, President of Wayside Gardens, brought Hungary's Best to the United States about 40 years ago. He gave one or two trees of this variety to Mr. Grullemans, because the latter so enjoyed its fine fruit. Mr. Grullemans decided to propagate the trees; and it has been sold by Wayside Gardens ever since.

Although Hungary's Best is not suitable for commercial planting, it makes a fine small tree for the garden.—*L. A. Weaver (Wayside Gardens), and R. M. Brooks.*

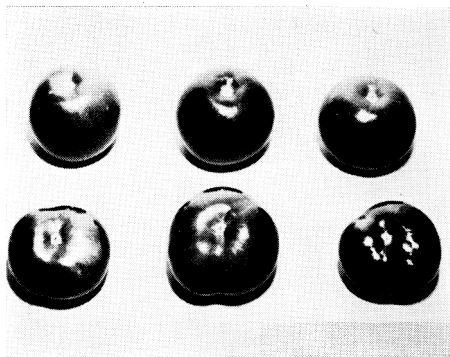


Fig. 1. Fruits of normal Arkansas Black (top row) and misshapen fruits from the same tree (bottom row).

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***Einset, John and Pratt, Charlott. 1959. Spontaneous and induced Apple Sports with Misshapen Fruit. Proc. Amer. Soc. Hort. Sci., 73: 1-8.