

Delicious Apple Chimera

The half-red, half-yellow apple observed in the Blue Jay Orchards of Robert Josephy, Bethel, Conn., during 1962, is an example of what the botanist calls a chimera. Very early in the apple's development, it was only a cell or two in the growing point of a shoot. One of these cells mutated (changed) from a hereditary constitution giving red skin to a constitution giving yellow skin. Thus, the apple developed with its two halves genetically different in skin color expression. If the mutation had occurred earlier, the whole apple might have been yellow on a tree of otherwise red Delicious apples. If the mutation had occurred later, a smaller portion than half would have been yellow.

Such sports occur commonly in nature, affecting flower, and leaf color, as well as the fruit and other varietal characteristics. When the mutated portion of the tree is propagated vegetatively, then these mutations (sports) may be readily preserved, and can be of considerable economic value—*Dr. C. D. Clayburg, Dept. of Genetics, Connecticut Agr. Exp. Station.*



Fig. 1. A skin color chimera that appeared on a Delicious tree in a Connecticut orchard.

A Dwarf Nectarine

The first dwarf nectarine ever to achieve varietal status has just been named and released commercially. It is 'Golden Prolific'. This dwarf tree averages 6 to 8 feet in height at maturity. It is extremely ornamental as well as being very productive of free-stone fruits. The tree is spreading, with medium vigor. The flowers are very beautiful, being large with red anthers.

The fruit averages 2½ inches in diameter, which is very large for a nectarine. The yellow skin is partially mottled with orange-red. The flesh is yellow with some red next to the pit, and has a subacid to mild flavor. It ripens evenly, and is too soft for shipping long distances. Thus, 'Golden Prolific' is designed for home use or local markets.

'Golden Prolific' has been patented (No. 2,193; November 20, 1962) by its originator, Mr. Fred W. Anderson of Merced, California. He assigned this patent to the L. E. Cooke Co. of San Gabriel, Calif. Mr. Anderson produced this new variety by selecting a tree from a second generation resulting from the cross of Late Le Grand nectarine by Flory Dwarf peach.—*Reid M. Brooks, Davis, Cal.*



Pear Varieties in Nova Scotia

In Nova Scotia, down by the ocean, the season is short—too short and cool for many pear varieties to mature with quality. Fortunately, most of the pear trees (94%), are of two varieties, Clapp Favourite and Bartlett, which have good quality. The need is for others to extend the pear season.

In 1958 scions were received of the selection that was later named Magness. The quality of this pear is excel-

lent even if not as fine as Comice, which in Nova Scotia, produces small crops. Magness produces heavily. Thinning will probably be required to secure the most desired size of fruit. Its appearance under Nova Scotia conditions is good, but no better.

Included in the variety trial orchard at the Kentville Research Station, are trees of Beierschmitt, which has excellent eating quality. The fruit is somewhat rough. The trees bear so heavily that they generally grow very slowly. Clara Frijs, an old Danish pear which ripens in early October, is a smooth, regular, medium-sized pear, having good quality. The trees produce heavily.

Pierre Corneille, which in Nova Scotia is a pear for the early storage period, is also medium in size, and of good plus quality even if not as fine as Magness.

Fire blight is fortunately not known to exist in Nova Scotia.—*R. P. Longley, Research Station, Kentville, N. S.*

Robison, a New Peach for the South

A new peach variety, Robison (Plant Pat. 2,163), has been introduced to the trade from South Carolina. This new variety was found as a chance seedling in a block of Dixired peach trees owned by Mr. John B. Robison, Route 1, Greer, South Carolina, and was found to have characteristics worthy of propagation and introduction. The fruit is extremely attractive having bright red cheeks and having a bright golden ground color defused with red. It is symmetrical in shape and is smooth having smooth suture line and having less tendency to flatten than Rio Oso Gem. Its flavor is sweet and mild with firm and melting flesh texture. The flesh is light yellow, tends to non-

browning, and the stone is of the free type. It is not excessively red around the pit.

The Robison is a good and regular bearer with the tree size medium and vigor average. The blossom is large and showy and pink in color. The chilling requirement has not been accurately determined but it is indicated that it will fall in the medium group since the blooming date has been mid-season. The ripening date of this peach is after J. H. Hale and Elberta and a few days before Rio Oso Gem. It seems to fill a need for a good variety ripening at this time.

Propagation rights have been consigned to Haley Nursery Company, Smithville, Tennessee.—*Roy Ferree, Extension Horticulturist, Clemson College, Clemson, S. C.*

Vesper Strawberry from New Jersey

A new strawberry, Vesper has been introduced by the New Jersey Agr. Exp. Station, and will be available from nurseries in Spring, 1963. It is a cross of Jerseybelle × Utah Shipper. It is a late, good quality berry for fresh market. Vesper is very vigorous, and productive, but is susceptible to Verticillium wilt and red-stele.

Promising Newer Peaches

Earlired is a highly colored, fairly firm variety, just before Dixired. Sunhaven, maturing just before Redhaven is rather firm. Of the later varieties, Washington is promising for Golden Jubilee season, Redglobe for Halehaven season, Jefferson for Elberta season.—*The late Leon Hav-*
is, U.S.D.A.