

Delicious Apple Chimera

The half-red, half-yellow apple observed in the Blue Jay Orchards of Robert Josephy, Bethey, 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.*

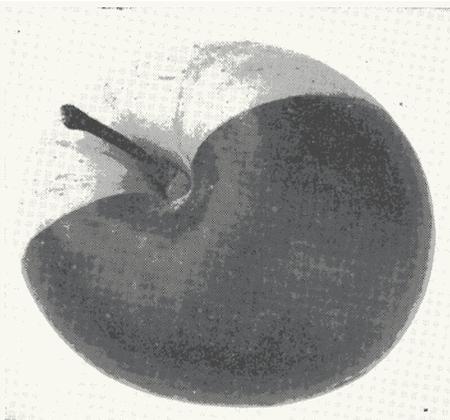


Fig. 1. A skin color chimera that appeared on a Delicious tree in a Connecticut orchard.

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-