

Tydeman Early Apple Requires Special Pruning in Early Years

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Widespread planting of Tydeman Early apple (also known as Tydeman's Red and Tydeman's Early Worcester) have been made in British Columbia and Washington in recent years. The Research Station at Summerland, has distributed 80,000 buds since 1957.

Several characteristics of this variety make training of the young tree difficult. The trees have a tendency to produce long spindly branches with few side shoots. This lack of side shoots is often referred to as a "blind wood condition," and is also quite common on the Spartan variety. The droopy growth habit of this variety is often aggravated by its tendency to bear apples on terminal buds. Failure of young trees to develop side branches when grown on some soils may also be aggravated by some minor element deficiency.

Either of the following pruning methods may be helpful in developing strong well shaped trees, and can be followed irrespective of the root-stock on which the trees are grown. These procedures are only general outlines, and as with all pruning procedures, the grower will have to modify them to fit his conditions. In both methods the whips should be cut back to about 36 inches when planted.

Method I

(1.) In the first year in the orchard, select three to five framework branches by disbudding all unwanted shoots from the trunk early in the summer.

(2.) In the winter pruning following the first season's growth, the framework branches which have been retained should be shortened back to 18 inches from the trunk. If frame-

work branches have not grown 18 inches there is no need to do any cutting, except to remove a terminal fruit bud. The severe cutting in the winter following the first growing season is designed to promote good development of side shoots in the second year.

(3.) In the second growing season the selected framework branches are allowed to elongate terminally, and any unwanted trunk shoots or twin terminal shoots are pinched back once or twice in the season to preserve the dominance of the selected framework branches.

(4.) If, however, side shoot development is not as good as is desired, then in the spring of the third growing season the framework branches will require a second shortening back, this time to 36 inches from the trunk. Again in the third summer, pinch back unwanted shoots the same as in the second summer. This cutting will tend to delay bearing, but this may be counteracted by trunk scoring after bloom, once trees have reached bearing size.

Method II

The second method involves detailed summer pruning. It is designed to help solve the blind bud problem, to promote the development of side branches, and to hasten bearing.

(1.) During the first summer select the 3 to 5 framework branches to be retained. When these branches reach 18 inches in length, pinch back 1 to 3 inches from the tip. This summer pinching checks elongation, encourages thickening of the selected branches, and will force some of the lateral buds into growth. This should be done early enough in the season

so that there will be regrowth from the tips of at least six inches and similar growth from the lateral buds. This pinching should be done sometime in June. Experience in specific plantings will determine the best time.

(2.) During the first dormant season little pruning is necessary except to shorten the leader to promote the development of more framework branches. Tip the laterals to prevent terminal blossoms, and remove any twin terminal shoots at this time.

(3.) During the second growing season the new terminal growth of the laterals is handled as in the first growing season. The central leader may have to be tipped if there is a lack of side branches. The side shoots on the main branches need pinching only if the grower would like more branches on these secondary branches or if the blind bud problem is severe.

(4.) This general pattern will be followed for two to four years when the tree should be well developed and normal pruning practice can be used.

Either of these methods should aid in producing a strong tree which can in future years be pruned the same as any other variety except for light tipping of some shoots as needed to prevent tip buds from producing terminal fruits.

Glohaven and Cresthaven— New Michigan Peaches

Glohaven and Cresthaven, two new peach varieties introduced by the Mich. Agr. Exp. Station, were developed by Stanley Johnston (a former A.P.S. president) and James E. Moulton.

Glohaven SH20 (J. H. Hale open-pollinated) x *Kalhaven* matures two weeks before *Elberta*. Tree is vigorous, productive, and is at least average in wood and fruit bud hardiness. It also appears to resist spring frost damage well, and is self-fruitful.

Fruit of *Glohaven* are nearly round, and maintain large size even when tree is loaded. Skin is tough, mostly red over deep yellow ground color, with little fuzz. Flesh is clear yellow, firm, and very resistant to browning. Stone is free. Because of its excellent canning and shipping quality, and attractive color, *Glohaven* promises to be an outstanding general purpose peach variety.

Cresthaven [*Kalhaven* x SH309 (SH50 x *Redhaven*)], also a most attractive freestone, matures about one week before *Elberta*. Tree is self-fruitful, vigorous, productive, and above average in hardiness of wood and flower buds. Fruit is uniform, medium-large, and nearly round. Skin is moderately thick and tough, golden, overlain with abundant red, and shows little fuzz. Flesh is firm, clear yellow, and very resistant to browning. Although commercial canners will not like it because of the red color in the pit cavity. *Cresthaven* is very promising for fresh market, freezing and home-canning.

Plant Breeding Symposium in 1965 at Iowa State University

A Plant Breeding Symposium will be sponsored by Iowa State University on March 1-5, 1965. A series of ten topics will be discussed by leading authorities. These discussions will include the history and contributions of plant breeding and interrelationships with the basic sciences. Pre-registration mailings will be sent in April or May to experiment station and university departments concerned with plant breeding programs. Others interested in this symposium may obtain further information by writing to Dr. K. W. Frey, Dept. of Agronomy, Ames, Iowa.