

Some New Hardy Seedling Apples

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Most of our commercial apples are adapted to the temperature ranges of western Europe, McIntosh being about the only important exception. Since it is much easier for Mohammed to go to the mountain than it is to bring the mountain to Mohammed, our main apple producing regions are still confined to the warmer climates. With McIntosh as their foundation parent, many really superior varieties are now coming to the fore to break this impasse; but there is still a lack of good, hardy kinds. With this in mind, I have collected the following seedlings found growing in our cold, windy country north of the Adirondacks:

Eastman Sweet is probably the oldest, being named after one of our local Civil War leaders who grafted the century old trees we now have. The fruit is medium-sized, oblong, yellow, with narrow scarlet striping over an orange blush; cavity is green without russeting; flesh is creamy white, agreeably sweet, of good to very good dessert quality. Season includes most of the winter.

Autumn Arctic is probably a seedling of Arctic, but I originally thought it was a sport. It came up on my grandfather's farm in Vermont, where the litter from the chicken house had been piled. The fruit is of much the same size, shape, flavor, and coloring as Baldwin; but it ripens in September, and is of considerably better quality than Arctic. It is scab resistant, and the fruit from young trees tend to be oversized.

Jenner Sweet originated as a sprout which came up from a broken tree. The stock was evidently one of the many Fameuse seedlings used in this

area years ago. It proved to be an acceptable sweet apple of typical Fameuse flavor ripening in mid-autumn. It survived the depression winter of 1933-'34 which killed many native forest trees in this section, and the January 13th, 14th and 15th onslaught in 1957, when the temperature registered -50° F. for three successive nights. The size and coloring is much the same as Fameuse except that the pink is more in evidence. The tree was planted and is now owned by Howard Jenner of Colton, N. Y.

Wilson Juicy is another tree which came up from the stump after the tree grafted on it died. The root is probably a century old. It shows evidence of being a seedling of Pomme de Neige, and quite different from McIntosh or St. Lawrence. It is as large as either, and even more juicy, but remarkable in that it will remain juicy all winter, whereas most good storage kinds get dryish. In fact, the first I tried of these were frozen solid; but after thawing slowly in the cellar, kept until spring. The skin has a lavender-pink blush over yellow, and the white flesh is a brisk subacid with a distinctive, refreshing flavor. A model nursery tree, it is now being grown by two other nurseries than our own. It originated in the old orchard of John Wilson, Hammond, N. Y.

Davies Pear, from the farm of George Davies, is probably a seedling of Yellow Transparent. The tree looks like it, and the apple is of similar size, shape and texture. The flavor is pear-like, being sweeter than Transparent. Extreme cold hit this section, near Norfolk, N. Y., without injury to this

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tree. The clone propagates as easily as Lodi.

Truax Greening is a large, green apple of excellent subacid flavor, most nearly resembling Coles Quince. It is a good substitute for Grimes Golden, where that kind winterkills. Some of the fruits have the sweet and sour cells adjacent, instead of blended, imparting a unique taste sensation. The apples keep all winter in cellar storage. The tree came up in the back yard of F. E. Truax, of Hammond, N. Y., probably growing from a Tolman Sweet core, as the tree has the Tolman type of growth, and the apples sometimes have a stripe.

Richardson is a good sized, early fall apple, colored like Walter Pease. The yellowish flesh has a rich, mellow flavor. Grafted trees grow with the vigor of a triploid. If it is one of these, it is harder than the triploid McIntosh sport. The large, original tree grows in the border of Leslie Richardson's sugar bush in the same area where Wilson and Truax live.

Dodds Banana came up the hard way in a pasture lane, over the fence from a Tolman Sweet orchard owned by Howard Dodds of Heuvelton, N. Y. Several Fameuse trees were set in where the Tolman trees died. This seems to be a cross between the two. The fruit is larger than either, with a fine subacid flavor, and banana-like aroma. Significantly enough, Tolman also appears to have been, with Gloria Mundi, a parent of Winter Banana.

Boys Joy is a very large, dark red, soft, sweet apple ripening in late September. It is probably a seedling of Baxter, as it evidently is of the Blue Pearmain family. I found several grafted trees of this clone in one neighborhood; but the original tree was gone, so it must be an old kind. It was locally known as Alexander, but does not look like that variety except in being of similar very large size.

We have over a dozen other selections in our nursery and test orchard, but I do not yet know enough about them to speak with assurance regarding their future performance. However, several may be of interest and will be described briefly.

Boyer Early is a very early Fameuse type. Of similar in size and appearance to Fameuse, its flavor is much the same, but is not quite as juicy nor as good. It was obtained from Robert Boyer, Black River, N. Y.

Norman Sweet grew in the right-of-way of the new thruway, Route 81, past the home of Mrs. Carl Norman, of Mannsville, N. Y. It is a medium sized, red, sweet, white fleshed, winter apple.

Lawyer Nutmeg from David Lawyer, Plains, Montana, is a small to medium-sized early winter apple, of rich and definite nutmeg spice flavor, uniquely colored with hairline scarlet stripes.

Hadlock Reinette is a pasture seedling found by Mrs. Edward Biondi, of Ogdensburg, N. Y., in the township of Hammond, on one of the Hadlock farms where her people live. It is a hard, very fine grained, bronze-orange blushed apple of sweet-subacid flavor, resembling Cox Orange in appearance. It is an unusual keeper, and unique in having three seeds to a cell.

Gibson Russet is either a russet sport of Golden Delicious or a seedling of it, found by Milo D. Gibson, near Portland, Oregon. Although rather susceptible to cold, it is a fine quality, heavy bearing variety. Looks like a russet pear when loaded with fruit.

Rich Red Crab is a seedling of Wealthy, about two inches in diameter, which struck back to Sops of Wine with a vengeance. Skin color is bright red with darker red stripes. Flesh has the most red of any variety I've seen that did not have some Red-vein inheritance. It keeps to mid-

winter, and is of about Wealthy quality.

Yellow Rose is a large, smooth, yellow, sweet apple without spice or special flavor. Scab resistant, and a remarkable keeper, it should be of value for breeding where these qualities are needed, and one wants to incorporate the flavor of the other parent into the seedlings. It is probably a cross of Tolman Sweet and Alexander, as it is hardier than Tolman.

O'Connell Redstreak is much like Wealthy in size, season and quality, but a longer, prettier apple, with the flesh of the brighter colored fruit heavily marbled with red. I found it in a pasture belonging to John J. O'Connell, near Brier Hill, N. Y.

Douglas Wormless survived a tent caterpillar infestation without losing a leaf, in the hedgerow fence line between the Douglas and Davies farms. It is said to be a good, red winter apple, and very hardy. There is something definitely different about it, because it failed on over half the stocks we tried to graft it on, but grew very vigorously on others.

Todd King is another pasture seedling. This one found by John E. Todd of DePeyster, N. Y. I have not eaten this apple, but I described it as resembling Tomkins King.

Clyde Purple Raspberry

Purple raspberries have long been grown in New York both for market and in gardens. Elsewhere, the purple varieties are almost exclusively a garden fruit. Their usefulness is due to the heavy crops of berries that are suitable for culinary purposes, and to a limited extent for dessert.

Shaffer, the first purple variety of consequence was the principal variety for many years after its introduction in 1878. Columbian, introduced in 1891, soon became, and remained the leading variety, in fact, just about the

only variety until the middle 1930's. The plants were vigorous, productive and virus-infected, but virus-tolerant. The berries were sweet and well-flavored. In the mid-thirties Sodus and Marion were introduced, and soon replaced Columbian. The berries were larger, firmer, less crumbly, and tart.

Clyde, originated at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva, N. Y. by crossing Bristol with N. Y. 17861 (Newburgh x Indian Summer), and was introduced in 1961. It is superior to Sodus and Marion in vigor, more canes being produced to bear larger crops. There are fewer missing plants in a plot of Clyde than with Sodus or Marion. Very little anthracnose has been noted on Clyde, even when severe on black raspberry plants nearby. The berries are similar in size, appearance, coherence, firmness, and flavor to those of Sodus and Marion (See front cover). Clyde is suggested for trial to replace Sodus and Marion.—*George Slate, Agr. Exp. Station, Geneva, N. Y.*

Peach Adaptation

In discussing peach varieties in the April '63 issue of Peach Times, John H. Weinberger calls attention to the sensitivity of most varieties to climate. For example, he points out, the Sunhigh peach performs very well in New Jersey, where it originated, but lacks flavor and red color in California. In contrast, Redtop and Suncrest, which are well adapted to California conditions, develop too dark a color in the East.

A cooler climate, Dr. Weinberger says, is usually associated with a smoother shaped peach, more red color, and a more attractive finish. Warm climates, on the other hand, tend to produce less color, a less attractive finish, and a longer and rougher peach.