

The Summerred Apple

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The Summerland Station recently introduced a late summer apple variety, Summerred. A good number of apple growers are interested in growing summer apples for direct sale to consumers. Tydeman's Early has recently been planted for this purpose in British Columbia. Although it has good commercial handling qualities, this variety has certain undesirable features in tree growth and bearing habits. The Summerred apple is suggested as an alternative to Tydeman's Early for roadside sales.

Summerred originated from open pollination of the Summerland selection S-4-8, which is a cross of McIntosh & Golden Delicious. Summerred was selected in 1961 under the selection number 9E-11-40 and named in 1964.

The tree of Summerred is vigorous and spreading. In the cold winter of 1955-56, the tree proved to be fully hardy. It blossoms relatively early. The variety comes into bearing rather early. It crops fairly regularly for an early variety. The fruit requires early and moderate to heavy thinning.

The fruit of Summerred is of medium size, uniform, oblong in shape and symmetrical in outline. The skin is highly colored, with a bright solid red blush, and prominent lenticels. If picked in time, the fruit is a very attractive bright red. The flesh is cream colored; its texture is fine, crisp, juicy, and moderately firm. The flavor is mildly subacid, and very good.

Summerred is picked about 3 weeks before McIntosh, or a day or so before

Tydeman's Early. Well-thinned trees may be harvested in one picking. No serious preharvest drop has been observed. The fruit can be successfully stored until end of November in ordinary cold storage.

Summerred can be pollinized by diploid varieties, and it is an effective pollinizer for Golden Delicious, McIntosh, and Delicious.

In comparison to Tydeman's Early, the Summerred forms a more desirable tree, and the fruit is of better flavor. On the other hand, the advantage of Tydeman's Early lies in its better fruit firmness and handling quality. In a test panel of 12 persons, comparing Tydeman's Early and Summerred for appearance and flavor, 8 panelists preferred Summerred. Because of earliness, good red color, and exceptional flavor, Summerred warrants extensive testing.

Discovery—New English Summer Apple

A very attractive, red, summer apple named Discovery was recently introduced by Matthews Fruit Trees Ltd., Thurston, Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England. It is an open-pollinated seedling of Worcester Permain that ripens before Tydeman's Early. The tree is resistant to mildew, according to the nursery's description.

The flesh of the fruit of Discovery is white, crisp, juicy, and good in flavor. Fruit does not need thinning to develop good size. Fruit hangs on well, and has a shelf life of about three weeks.