

well marked. The flavor is good and skin medium thick. It is a midseason variety which in some sections bears poorly.

Other varieties which have been plant-

ed on occasion, but which have proved to be somewhat inferior in some respects are Golden Russet, Loma, Mira Vista, Sallmon, and Ryerson.



## The McIntosh Apple

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The McIntosh apple, is the number one commercial variety in New England because of its superior quality and appearance, its annual bearing habit, and winter hardiness. This variety was a chance seedling found by the late John McIntosh at Dundela, Ontario, Canada, nearly 150 years ago. Few fruit varieties have meant as much to an area as the McIntosh apple has to the Northeast.

It was already gaining in popularity as a commercial variety in New England some forty years ago at the time that cold winters ruined many Baldwin orchards. Since about 1920 there has been rather heavy planting of this variety in the New England area and to some extent in other sections throughout the Northeast where the cool climate appears to be most favorable for it.

### Origin of McIntosh

It is important that we know more of the origin of a variety as important as the

McIntosh apple. Mr. John McIntosh, born near Schenectady, New York, is credited with finding the chance apple seedling when clearing a section of forest for a new home in Dundela, Dundas County, Ontario, Canada, about 1800.

He transplanted a few apple trees from the border of the clearings to his fenced-in garden and there nursed them along with care. The fruit from one of these trees was much better than the rest. This tree was first called the "Granny apple tree" for John's wife, Granny McIntosh. It was later named McIntosh in honor of John McIntosh, who preserved the seedling.

Allen McIntosh, son of John McIntosh, was born in 1815. It was not until some years later when Mrs. Allen McIntosh learned the art of grafting and budding that nursery trees were propagated from this original seedling McIntosh and distributed for planting. The original tree attracted a great deal of attention locally and a number of McIntosh orchards were planted. This fruit was outstanding be-

cause of the solid bright red color, its extremely fine quality and because the trees bore a good crop of fruit every year. Nursery salesmen were distributing McIntosh apple trees in the New England area by 1870.

The original McIntosh tree was badly scorched when the house nearby burned in 1894. Although the tree lived on for a few years in a weakened condition, it finally died about 1905. The trunk of the

original McIntosh tree was later taken to Spencerville, Canada, by Dr. A. P. McIntosh and a few pieces of the wood were given away as souvenirs. In 1925 the Dr. A. P. McIntosh residence burned and the remainder of the trunk was destroyed by fire.

#### A Monument to the McIntosh

The local Horticultural Society and others interested, erected a monument to the first McIntosh tree along the roadside twenty rods directly south of where the original tree stood. The monument is on the John McIntosh farm which, at the last reports, was owned and operated by Harvey A. McIntosh, a grandson of the first owner. The following inscription appears on the bronz plaque on the face of the monument: "The original McIntosh Red apple tree stood about twenty rods north of this spot. It was one of a number of seedlings taken from the border of the clearings and transplanted by John McIntosh in the year 1796. Erected by popular subscription 1912."

The McIntosh apple has many of the qualities that the plant breeder of today dreams of obtaining. Although the McIntosh has been used extensively as one of the parents for fruit breeding, it is safe to state that none of the new varieties obtained have been an improvement of the original McIntosh.

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A monument to the McIntosh apple. This marker stands along the roadside twenty rods directly south of where the original tree stood in Ontario, Canada.