

ing, smaller seeds and more pliable canes than Evergreen.

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Some Interesting Golden Delicious Seedling Selections

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The popularity of the Golden Delicious apple in nearly all apple growing areas of the world has prompted fruit breeders to use it in crosses in order to incorporate the outstanding qualities of Golden Delicious into other varieties.

Several selections of the Golden Delicious type have been developed by fruit breeding institutes or fruit growers; a few have already been named. The Summerland Research Station has a limited program in breeding Golden Delicious types of apple, and a few selections have been found worthy of growers' trial.

9E-13-47 (= Kendall x Golden Delicious) is indistinguishable in appearance from Golden Delicious. However, towards the end of the storage period, when Golden Delicious has lost practically all its acidity and flavor, and tastes quite neutral, the seedling 9E-13-47 is slightly firmer and richer in flavor because of its higher level of acidity and soluble solids. The fruit of the 9E-13-47 could be marketed without difficulty as Golden Delicious, but before the selection can be named and planted commercially, growers' experience is needed to determine its growth and bearing habits. At the Summerland Station, the selection has been as free from russetting as Golden Delicious. The selection has borne almost annually, alternating from moderate to heavy crops. The selection can be planted as a pollinizer for Golden Delicious.

This combination gives the grower the unique opportunity of growing what appears to be one variety, but actually are two varieties that will successfully pollinize each other.

10-C-18-33 (= Golden Delicious open pollinated) is like Golden Delicious, but can be distinguished from it by a more roundish-conic fruit. The skin color is a bright yellow, and covered on the sunny side with an intensively red blush. In spite of rather prominent lenticels on the sunny side, the fruit of the selection is fairly attractive. The fruit of 10C-18-33 has a fair amount of acidity—more than both Golden Delicious and the selection 9E-13-47 described above. Be-

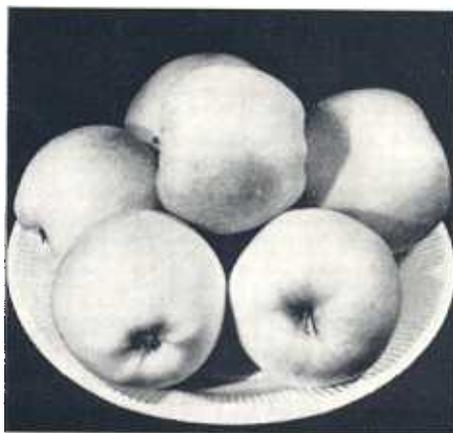


Figure 1. The fruit of the selection 10C-6-25 (Winesap x Golden Delicious) is large, round, smooth, with very slight blush.

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cause of its distinctly greater firmness and acidity, the fruit of 10C-18-33 can be kept in good condition longer in storage than Golden Delicious. However, in years favorable for the development of apple powdery mildew, the selection can be severely affected by the disease.

10C-6-25 (= Winesap x Golden Delicious) is a yellow apple of Golden Delicious parentage, but it does not resemble Golden Delicious in appear-

ance or flavor (Figure 1). The tree of this selection is vigorous, very productive, and bears almost annually. The fruit is uniformly large, round, slightly conic, smooth. The storage life of fruit is long; fruit maintains good condition until April and May. It could be sold on the fresh fruit market after Golden Delicious. The selection has been found superior to Golden Delicious in processing as sauce, slices, or baked.

Deciduous Fruit Varieties for Tropical America

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Since the earliest days of European colonization, attention has been devoted to the establishment of temperate zone fruits in the highlands of the New World tropics. The efforts of the Spaniards in the West Indies and on the mainland are recorded in the early chronicles. Spanish peaches were successful in many regions; apples and pears, on a limited scale, in a few.

After a long period during which little progress seems to have been made, an impetus was given to this work through the arrival, in several countries, of colonists from Central Europe, as well as through an awakened interest on the part of local residents. In Guatemala, many trees brought from Europe during the last half of the XIX century are still alive. Then, in the 1950's, much help came to us through the visits of such outstanding pomologists as George M. Darrow, W. H. Chandler, Paul Dougherty, Robert Ticho and others. The meeting of the American Society for Horticultural Science, Caribbean Region (now the Tropical Region), which was held in Antigua, Guatemala, during the month of June 1962, focused attention on the possibilities of the apple, pear, plum and peach.

Damon Boynton came forward with the first definite study of climatic adaptations; Ralph H. Sharpe contributed observations based on much work in a subtropical climate—that of Florida.

Much had been done in Guatemala about 1930. In the 1940's and 50's a collection had been established at the Escuela Agricola Panamericana in Honduras. In 1961 a considerable number of apple, pear and plum varieties were obtained from California by the Ministerio de Agricultura in Guatemala, and planted at Quezaltenango. Experimental plantings had been made in other countries, among which I would mention Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and the work of Francisco de Sola in El Salvador.

Since my own observations have been limited principally to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, I shall not attempt to cover the whole field. And before proceeding further, I would like to register a protest against what seems to be a lethargic indifference in some parts of the world to the importance of systematic pomology. What would we have done, in our efforts to identify fruit varieties in tropical America, without such

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