

should be particularly valuable where they can be marketed directly through roadside stands, and provide practically a month of tree-ripe pears.

As a sufficient volume of fruit becomes available for storage and after-ripening studies, after-ripening and storage procedures may be developed that will allow these varieties to reach even better quality and texture.

Since blight resistant varieties, of good quality were lacking, there was little grower interest in rejuvenating the pear industry in New Jersey during the first decade after the initiation of the project. Consequently, there seemed to be reason to question the appropriateness of continuing a major research project that might take a quarter of a century to develop adapted varieties. During the past decade the administration of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station has been much concerned about this project.

### Prime Gold, a Promising New Apple\*

Prime Gold is a new apple variety discovered in a Golden Delicious orchard belonging to Bud Hoekman, Zillah, Wash., in the Fall of 1965. It grew from the rootstock of a Golden Delicious tree which had died back during the winter of 1965.

The fruit of Prime Gold has a clear yellow skin, white lenticels and a heavy wax coating. It has white flesh of excellent dessert quality. It is reported to be bruise and russet resistant, and free of bitter pit. Prime Gold ripens earlier than Golden Delicious, and is a late keeper. It does not tend to shrivel in storage like Golden. Preliminary tests indicate that its processing quality is equal to or better than Golden Delicious.

ect. These varieties are named for the dean and directors in recognition of their continuing concern.

Trees of Star, Lee and Mac are available through the New Jersey Apple Institute, R. D. 3, Princeton, New Jersey 08540.

### Literature Cited

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The original ten-year old tree appears winter hardy, and becomes dormant earlier than Red or Golden Delicious, making it less susceptible to early freezes. Prime Gold forms a tree about  $\frac{3}{4}$  the size of a Golden, and is described as semi-spurred. Its main branches tend to form wide angles with the trunk.

Trees may be obtained from the Prime Gold Nursery, sole propagator of this promising new apple.

### Washington Plum

J. F. Anderson, of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, reports that the old European plum variety, Washington, has been very productive at Amherst. And, although it is not especially attractive, has an excellent flavor, and should not be overlooked.

\*Based on information received from James Ballard, Yakima County Agent and Cal Bosch, Editor of Goodfruit Grower, and a brochure published by the Prime Gold Nursery.