

the commercial production formerly assigned to J. H. Hale.

Prairie Rambler (K43) came from a cross made between Elberta and Gage in 1933. It ripens three to five days after Elberta. The tree is vigorous and productive and the tests indicate that it is somewhat hardier than Elberta or J. H. Hale. The flower is medium in size, the fruit is large and the yellowish background is completely covered with red, in tree ripened specimens. The shape of the fruit is similar to J. H. Hale. The flesh is firm and the pit is free. This variety is an at-

tractive, high quality freestone, and was selected to extend the Elberta season.

The prefix "Prairie" has been used in the first of the series to be named by this Station because Illinois was known as the Prairie State during the "covered wagon era". This preliminary announcement is made for the convenience of propagators, growers and testers. Trees will be available this fall in limited numbers at the Vienna Nursery Company, Vienna, Ill. for growers who wish to make preliminary tests or for nurserymen who wish to establish a supply of bud wood.



A National Appraisal of Apple Varieties

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The preference of American fruit growers for certain varieties has always been in a process of change. Rarely have such preferences been summarized and analyzed, and then usually on a state or local basis. It is the purpose of this study to provide a basis for a national appraisal of variety planting trends. To a large extent it will be qualitative rather than quantitative, but accurate to the ex-

tent that the sampling has been representative of the great mass of commercial fruit growers.

While it will not be possible at this time to make a complete analysis of the apple and peach variety situation, a region by region summary is presented, which, when pieced together will indicate what the national picture looks like. Because the trend of variety preference is definitely progressive, it is even now possible to suggest how future fruit tree

acres will be divided in various parts of the country. On such a projection into the future, fruit tree nurseries can plan their propagation, and the growers themselves can make such plans as will be necessary to fit marketing requirements. The pulling of trees in one section might even be desirable because of planting increases in another.

Study Table For Detailed Results

A few comments on the data in the accompanying table are presented for the sake of explanation and emphasis. It is evident that while comparatively few varieties are taking over an undisputed leadership, a large number are decreasing in popularity. This is more true in the case of apples than with peaches where more new and superior varieties are available for planting over wide geographical areas.

The varieties are listed alphabetically because it would be impractical to attempt to arrange them in order of importance and include the three regions of the eastern United States in the same table. The figures are based on the number of growers who reported on the different varieties and, therefore, do not represent actual acreage.

In studying the data which are presented in the table, notice that the second column in each region indicates the number of growers who voted either in favor of planting or discarding the varieties in question. The last column in each section records the percentage of growers who would plant the variety being considered. The remaining growers voted to discard the variety. Unless at least 60 or 70 per cent voted in favor of a variety,

it should probably be considered of questionable value for future planting.

In considering the figures in the table it is of interest to note that of the varieties which are favored for future planting Cortland rates rather high in all three regions as do red strains of Delicious and Golden Delicious. The North Atlantic and North Central states like red strains of Jonathan, Rome and Stayman. In New England the high ratings of Macoun, McIntosh, Melba and Milton are of interest.

A possible idea of the trends in planting might be secured by comparing the percentage of growers who now have a variety with the percentage who would include the variety in new plantings. In this connection the number of growers reporting should be observed. In some cases such as with Red Spy in the North Atlantic and North Central areas, only a small percentage of the growers had this variety and only a total of 66 growers out of 954 voted on its desirability for future planting.

✓ New England States

In the New England group of states, we find in the apple, a decided preference to the McIntosh variety. Not only is it the most widely planted apple in New England but future planters favor it above all others. No distinction has been made between the striped and blush strains since both types are pretty well mixed in most orchards. Next to McIntosh, the most popular variety mentioned for new plantings is a McIntosh seedling, namely the Cortland. Then in descending order comes Delicious, Bald-

win, Early McIntosh, Red Gravenstein, Northern Spy, and Macoun. With the exception of Gravenstein, red strains are not as popular as the old or ordinary

strains, probably because in the north additional color is not necessary nor in some cases even desirable. Although a relatively small number of growers have

VARIETY	<i>New England</i> NORTH CENTRAL STATES			NORTH ATLANTIC STATES			<i>N. Central</i> NEW ENGLAND STATES		
	Growers who now have variety	Growers who voted to plant or discard varieties	Growers who favored planting	Growers who now have variety	Growers who voted to plant or discard varieties	Growers who favored planting	Growers who now have variety	Growers who voted to plant or discard varieties	Growers who favored planting
	%	Number	%	%	Number	%	%	Number	%
Baldwin	83	134	75	40	99	33	20	131	22
Ben Davis	---	---	---	12	54	2	20	153	18
Cortland	82	155	94	40	99	78	28	135	73
Delicious	75	141	83	61	92	56	58	241	42
Richard	32	48	87	18	50	96	12	82	94
Starking	27	25	64	22	68	85	43	235	82
Duchess	34	59	15	12	66	91	37	180	26
Red Duchess	---	---	---	---	---	---	11	80	94
Early McIntosh	53	95	87	16	43	60	---	---	---
Golden Delicious	39	65	68	47	123	84	63	377	93
Grimes	---	---	---	40	94	44	57	259	65
Gravenstein	46	49	35	---	---	---	---	---	---
Red strains	34	70	86	---	---	---	---	---	---
Haralson	---	---	---	---	---	---	13	63	57
Jonathan	---	---	---	38	83	48	79	388	89
Red strains	---	---	---	22	16	88	26	215	97
King David	---	---	---	---	---	---	20	124	19
Macoun	40	69	81	15	55	58	---	---	---
McIntosh	98	187	98	58	148	56	25	160	62
Melba	13	17	82	---	---	---	---	---	---
Milton	26	48	85	---	---	---	---	---	---
Northern Spy	68	85	68	28	66	52	19	133	45
Red Spy	30	56	89	9	27	70	6	39	67
Northwestern	---	---	---	12	36	56	21	122	47
Red Astrachan	46	74	42	---	---	---	9	61	10
Rhode Island	53	78	55	32	69	87	16	92	58
Rome	---	---	---	56	99	76	28	145	67
Red strains	---	---	---	31	95	94	22	134	93
Stayman	---	---	---	60	82	65	40	209	40
Red strains	---	---	---	24	81	81	15	119	80
Summer Rambo	---	---	---	18	39	95	---	---	---
Tolman Sweet	19	35	23	---	---	---	15	93	84
Turley	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
Twenty Ounce	---	---	---	14	31	48	---	---	---
Wealthy	58	91	31	47	101	32	58	255	72
Winesap	---	---	---	---	---	---	30	179	50
Winter Banana	---	---	---	---	---	---	17	110	15
Wolf River	18	46	7	---	---	---	13	100	22
Yl. Transparent	23	57	16	31	90	21	45	223	54
York	---	---	---	31	32	22	19	115	46

Note: Number of growers reporting—New England 214, North Atlantic 309, North Central 645.

tested Melba and Milton, these varieties seem to show considerable promise.

Among prominent New England apple varieties which are definitely decreasing in popularity may be listed Wealthy, Duchess, Yellow Transparent, Wolf River, Red Astrachan and Fameuse, all but one of which are summer varieties. Graevenstein is also losing ground while its red sports are gaining.

✓ North Atlantic States

Moving to the North Atlantic States which for the purpose of the survey start with New York and end with West Virginia, Golden Delicious takes over as the most popular apple for new plantings. Then next in order comes McIntosh, Cortland, Rome and Gallia Beauty, Rhode Island, Starking and Stayman. Staymared seems to be gaining rapidly in popularity and may soon outstrip Stayman in the number of new plantings. Of almost equal popularity to the above named varieties are Grimes, Jonathan, Northern Spy and the red strains of Stayman. Varieties in declining favor include Yellow Transparent, Wealthy, Baldwin, Duchess and Ben Davis.

✓ North Central States

Moving next to the North Central States we find a new set of varieties receiving major consideration in the minds of commercial apple growers. Topping the list is Jonathan, closely followed by Golden Delicious, which is even ahead in prospective future plantings. Following these two come Wealthy, Grimes, Yellow Transparent, Cortland, McIntosh and Rome. Popular among the newer varieties are Turley and red strains of Delicious, Jonathan, Stayman, Rome,

Duchess and Wealthy. More growers would discard Delicious, Duchess and Stayman than would plant them. Other varieties marked for discard in that section of the country are King David, Baldwin, Ben Davis, Maiden Blush, Wolf River and Red Astrachan.

✓ Southern States

In a more limited survey of the southern States, Golden Delicious ranks first in both present and expected future plantings. Next in order of varieties which are preferred for new plantings are Starking, Winesap, Stayman, Staymared, Jonathan and Delicious. Leading for discard status are King David and Arkansas, with Yellow Transparent in a near 50-50 position. Lodi, a comparatively new early yellow apple, is fast replacing Yellow Transparent in several southern states.

✓ Pacific Northwest

Completing the apple variety survey we take a sample of Pacific Northwest opinions. Here the growers show a switch in top preference from the ordinary Red Delicious to Starking, while Winesap and Golden Delicious rate second and third respectively. From a present second place, Jonathan drops back to fifth among intended plantings, with Rome also losing ground. Heaviest "discard varieties" are Stayman, Winter Banana and Esopus.

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(A national summary of the peach variety survey will be published in the next issue of *Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest*. Editor.)