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"Iowa 403"—A New Seedling Apple

Abstract
One of the promising seedling apples originated at the Iowa Experiment Station Is now offered to the nurserymen of the state under the label Iowa 403. It is hoped that the nurserymen will assist In making a thorough test of the variety, so that as soon as possible Its value for planting In this region may be determined. The distribution at this time will consist solely of clons. Since the nurserymen, as a class, are prepared to give the clons more skillful attention than other people, this distribution Is to be offered to all Iowa nurserymen whose names appear on the 1914 list of the State Inspector. Later distribution will be made to others who may be Interested In testing this apple.

Keywords
Horticulture

Disciplines
Agricultural Science | Agriculture | Fruit Science | Horticulture

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"IOWA 403"—A NEW SEED-LING APPLE

AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION
IOWA STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AND THE MECHANIC ARTS

Horticultural Section

Ames, Iowa
"Iowa 403"---A New Seedling Apple

BY S. A. BEACH

One of the promising seedling apples originated at the Iowa Experiment Station is now offered to the nurserymen of the state under the label Iowa 403. It is hoped that the nurserymen will assist in making a thorough test of the variety, so that as soon as possible its value for planting in this region may be determined. The distribution at this time will consist solely of clons. Since the nurserymen, as a class, are prepared to give the clons more skillful attention than other people, this distribution is to be offered to all Iowa nurserymen whose names appear on the 1914 list of the State Inspector. Later distribution will be made to others who may be interested in testing this apple.

TERMS OF DISTRIBUTION

This variety is now offered without restriction as to further distribution by sale or otherwise. No charge is made for the clons but it is expected that those who receive them for testing will report results to the Station when called upon to do so. Only a few clons can be sent to each applicant. Requests will be filled in the order in which they are received. Applicants who do not get clons this spring will be listed for the next distribution.

Address all correspondence regarding this new apple to S. A. Beach, Horticulturist, Ames, Iowa.

DESCRIPTION OF THE FRUIT

The fruit of Iowa 403 is roundish conic and of medium size. It is a red apple. When well colored it is attractive but it does not equal Jonathan in this respect, being of a darker and duller shade of red.

The flesh is white or sometimes delicately tinged with a pinkish shade. The texture is moderately fine, firm, tender and crisp. It is sprightly sub-acid, having a little more acidity than Jonathan yet it is agreeable in flavor. In quality and flavor it easily ranks "very good", as grown in Central Iowa. It is desirable for either cooking or dessert uses.

The fruit may be kept until midwinter or later. It stands up well in shipment and storage. It is suitable for either home use or market.

DESCRIPTION OF TREE

The original tree, which is now 26 years old, stands in Station Orchard D on the black soil of the flat Wisconsin drift. In habit it is vig-
ocious, upright and somewhat spreading. It has proven very hardy, not only in tree but also in fruit bud, as indicated by its productiveness in trying seasons. Even after the severe winter and spring conditions of 1910, which destroyed the apple crop in most parts of Iowa, it bore a little fruit. Some years it has loaded up so heavily that thinning would have been advisable. The following is its fruit record since 1907. This indicates that it is a reliable cropper under adverse climatic conditions.

- 1907. Crop fair.
- 1908. Crop 50 per cent.
- 1909. Crop 10 per cent.
- 1911. Crop 100 per cent.
- 1912. Crop good.
- 1913. Crop 100 per cent.

**HISTORICAL STATEMENT**

A few years ago the Horticultural section of the Iowa Experiment Station adopted the plan of designating the more promising seedlings produced in its plant breeding work by numbers prefixed by the word “Iowa”, to indicate that they originated at the Iowa Experiment Station. The new apple which we are now considering was first recorded on the station lists as Russian Seedling No. 78 but later when it showed promise of being worthy of further testing it was called Iowa 403.

This apple was grown from seed collected in 1887 from an orchard at the Iowa State College which was then known as the Russian Orchard, but which later was called Orchard A. While this orchard was largely composed of Russian varieties imported by Professor Budd between 1878 and 1883, it also included numerous little known sorts of American origin and a limited collection of better known varieties, including the Canada Baldwin, Winter St. Lawrence, Hass, McIntosh, Scott Winter and others.

**NEW APPLE NOT NECESSARILY OF RUSSIAN ORIGIN**

The seedlings which were grown from the lot of seed above mentioned, were at first designated by number, following the word Russian, which referred to the name of the orchard from which the seed was taken. It is clear, therefore, that the designation “Russian 78” by which this apple was first listed in the station records, does not necessarily signify that it came from seed of any Russian variety. In fact, Iowa 403, shows no indication of Russian parentage but it does resemble Scott Winter noticeably in some of the characters of the tree and twigs and also in the hardiness of the tree and of the fruit bud and in the season of the fruit.

A few years ago this apple was sent under the label Russian 78 to some of the trial stations of the State Horticultural Society. It has
been fruited under that label by Mr. L. A. Clemens, Station Keeper at Storm Lake, and Mr. F. O. Harrington, Station Keeper at Williamsburg.

TWO GROWERS' EXPERIENCES WITH "IOWA 403"

Mr. Harrington exhibited this variety at the Winter Short Course at Ames in 1914. The fruit averaged larger than Jonathan and was of a very fine, deep, dark red color. In the Annual Report of the Iowa Horticultural Society for 1913, p. 480, Mr. Harrington gives the following report on the variety as grown at Williamsburg:

"Russian No. 78: Some apple clones were received a few years ago, from, if my memory serves, our agricultural college, under the above label. They were top grafted on a small Northwestern Greening. The tree has been bearing three years now. In 1911 perhaps only two or three dozen, last year possibly a bushel, and this season about two and one-half bushels. The tree has a little of the Jonathan characteristics, but perhaps more of those of the King David, not a trace that I can discover of the Russian types in the tree nor yet in the fruit, and am inclined to believe that if there is any Russian blood in it the American blood is so predominant in its essential characteristics as almost to eliminate any other. Apparently the tree will be a good bearer. Color of the apple is a deep red, darker than Jonathan; is larger than Jonathan, yet only medium size. In shape a little more elongated and conical than Jonathan. Calyx cup small and shallow. Flesh is firm and heavy, though tender and breaking and the quality very good for dessert uses. The flavor seems to be something of a blending of the Jonathan and Winesap. It appears to be worthy of a name and a test for a place in the commercial orchard."

Mr. Clemens has fruited Iowa 403 at Storm Lake. His orchard is 67 miles north and 180 miles west of the Harrington orchard under quite different soil and climatic conditions. He rates the quality of the fruit as he grows it lower than Mr. Harrington does. Mr. Clemens says: "Russian 78 as I have it topped on Hibernal, bears soon, is productive and seems hardy; whilst not an eating apple, it is a good cooking apple. All in all, for the cold north it is worth setting. Keeps past midwinter".