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HISTORY RECORDS THE APPLE WAS KNOWN AND PRIZED BY ANCIENTS

(The following study of the history and nature of the apple was
compiled by Roy E. Streling, F. H. S. from source material)

"The Golden Fruit of Antiquity"
Horticulturists regard this fruit
as the progeny of two original
species, the familiar species be-
ing modifications of the P. malus
of Linnaeus.

The common apple appears in
the traditions and mythology of
ancient nations. Its charred re-
mains have been found in the mud
of the prehistoric Lake Dwellings
of Europe, while it is represented
with sufficient fidelity in some of
the most ancient stone carvings.
It is mentioned in the earliest
annals of China, Babylon, Phrygia
and Egypt. Relying upon its hy-
brid origin, it has been assigned
by some horticulturists to Higher
Asia, where this species is most
likely to be associated; a theory,
however, which is contested the
world over, by others, who ad-
vance many reasons for its con-
ventional origin in Asia Minor.

The apple in reality is not a
true apple as claimed by scientis-
ts, but only a falsely applied
term. In the Eastern States the
P. coronaria grows wild. A sweet
scented fruit about three-fourths
of an inch in diameter, the tree is
about 15 to 20 feet high, with light
green leaves and rose-color bloom-
soms, which appears in the latter
part of May. This plant is now
cultivated in all states. There are
numerous species of Crab Apple
trees in the Universe as a whole;
all of which are natives of the
Americas.

Dropping again into tradition
we find the Apple of discord. A
cause of dispute; something to
contend about. At the marriage of
Thetis and Peleus, where all the
gods and goddesses met together.
Discord threw on the table a
golden apple "for the most beau-
tiful." Just then, Minerva, Juno
and Venus, each claiming the ap-
ple in their separate claims; and
not being able to settle the point,
referred the question to Paris,
who gave judgment in favour of
Venus. This brought upon him the
vengeance of Juno and Minerva,
to whose spite the fall of Troy is
attributed.

"The apple" plays a large part
in Greek story. Besides the
three apples thrown down by Hip-
pomenes when he raced with
Atalanta. The story says that
Atalanta stopped to pick up the
apples, whereby Hippomenes won
the race, and according to the
terms obtained her for his wife.

Then there are the golden apples
of the Hesperides, guarded by a
sleepless dragon with a hundred
heads; but Hercules slew the
dragon and carried some of the
apples to Eurystheus. This was the
twelfth and last of his labours.

Of course, the Bible story of
Eve and the Apple will be famil-
iar to every reader of this story.

The apple tree, as a rule, is not
over 30 feet high, the trunk and
branches crooked and gnarled,
leaving short-stemmed, blossoms
having permanent calyxes, and
emerging in clusters. When in
leaf, the tree presents that
symmetrical outline which sug-
gests long domestication. Apple-
wood is of fine grain and hard-
enough, when stained black, to
pass for ebony. It is also employed
in the manufacture of furniture,
shoe-lasts, small cog-wheels, but-
tons, oriental imitations of olive
wood and other objects. Dwarf
apple trees are sometimes culti-
vated simply for ornament, as when
planted for hedges, forming very
beautiful ones, when judiciously
selected with regard to color of
blossoms and fruit. They are also
planted in limited grounds, when
a variety of fruit is required to
be produced in a narrow space.
Many varieties grafted on the wild
crab seedling grow successfully
and become dwarfed.

The French paradise apple, a
small variety, dwarfs other vari-
eties grafted upon it. It is less
dwarf than the crab, and more
dwarf than the stock in common
use for this purpose. The dwarf-
ing of trees is carried to an as-
tonishing degree in China and
Japan, where trees not more than a
single foot high are produced and
kept in flower-pots holding scarce-
ly more than a quart, yielding im-
mature fruit. In England, France
and the Low Countries apples are
trained not only as dwarfs, but
more commonly as espaliers and
balloon-shaped.

Apple crops exhibit great var-
iance from year to year, sometimes
ballooning and at other times dou-
bling normal produce. A normal

crop at the present time is over
300,000,000 bushels. Upon a rough
computation, for which no accu-
rate claim is made, it is 10,000,000
bushels of apples are annu-
ally reduced to cider and vinegar,
the world's product of apples
would amount to 250,000,000 bush-
els. Counting 200 apples to a
bushel, the product would be
50,000,000,000 apples. As the
Chinese, Japanese and other far
eastern people export no apples
and import but few, the product
is substantially consumed in Eu-
rope, America and her outlying
countries, which all told embrace
about 625,000,000 people. This
would make an average of 80
apples a year to each person, or
400 to the average family of five
persons.

The average value of the apple
crop of the United States over a
long period has been about 66 1/2
cents per bushel. In 1910 there
were a total of 219,115,000
apple trees in the United States;
in Canada 16,217,166.

In addition to productiveness,
and essential to the value of a
food plant, there are 12 points
which should always be looked
for in selecting the brand of
seedling. Of course all 12 of these
qualities cannot be found great-
ly developed in a single variety
because some are in a measure
antagonistic, but by keeping these
points in mind the prospective
orchardist may avoid planting a
variety that would not meet his
own expectations or the market
demands.

Richness, dependent upon the
relative proportion of sugar to
malic acid. When these are dif-
ferent in amount the fruit is in-
sapid, but each may be present in
large amounts without making the
fruit pronouncedly sweet or tart
to the taste. Many tart apples con-
tain more sugar than some of the
so-called sweet apples. In ripe
specimens of improved varieties
the range of acid is from 0.19 to
1.11 per cent, and of sugar from
10 per cent or even less in juve-
niles to 14 per cent or somewhat
more, the usual range being from
11 to 13 per cent.

Flavor, a quality distinct from
the taste of acid and sugar, and
like perfume, dependent upon
minute quantities, seldom more
than 0.5 per cent, of a volatile oil.
A highly perfumed apple is,
however, not necessarily highly
flavored.

Color, often of more importance
in the uneducated market than
form, size, richness and flavor
combined. It is an unsafe index
of the last two qualities, except
that, as a rule, well-colored ap-
ples of the same varieties with season,
soil, management, etc. are best.
The favorite color in the general
market is red.

Form: a nearly globular shape
is most desirable because fruits
of that form pack better without
bruising than other forms.

Size and uniformity. In general,
a diameter of about three inches
and a weight of six or eight ounces
is preferred, and a variety
producing such as the bulk of its
crop will usually (on account of
the lessened necessity for grad-
ing) be more valuable than
another variety of equal produc-
tiveness but with widely varying
size of fruit.

Smooth, tough but thin skin resis-
tance insects and fungus attacks,
injuries in handling and shipping,
and is more economical with re-
spect to waste.

Small core and few seeds save
waste.

Maturity: The commercial vari-
ety should be ready to harvest all
at once.

Firm adherence to the tree;
self-evident. Defectiveness in this
respect may be due to attacks of
enemies.

Culinary qualities: of prime im-
portance in commercial varieties
because such are used mainly for
cooking. Sweet varieties usually
make insipid pies but good baked
apples; tart varieties make best
pies and sauce. Good keeping is
not dependent solely upon firm-
ness but it is usually associated
with locality, climate soil, etc. as
well as with the variety and the
stock upon which it is grown.
Grafting and long domestication
have resulted in several hundred
varieties, some say 1,000. Even in
Pliny's time, nearly 2,000 years
ago, there were 22 varieties known
to the Romans, many of them tak-
ing the name of the cultivator, a
ling normal produce. A normal
(Continued on page six)

We Are HAPPY

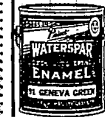
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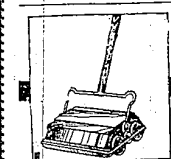


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