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Origin of Some Apple Varieties

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Several times in the last two months the author has been asked the origin of some of the apple varieties grown in Massachusetts. It is felt, therefore, that this information also might be of interest to many of the readers of *Fruit Notes*.

Most of the apple varieties planted in this country originated here, but the history of many is obscure, and except for varieties more recently introduced, few came into existence as the product of the plant breeder. Most of the varieties originated as chance seedlings and were discovered and introduced into cultivation by some observer and admirer of them. McIntosh, Delicious, Wealthy, Northern Spy, and Baldwin are examples of commercial varieties that originated as chance seedlings.

There are also a number of bud sports of popular varieties on the market, for example: Galbraith Baldwin, Richared, Red Gravenstein, and Red Spy. Most of these differ from the parent varieties only in higher color of the fruit.

The following is a list of some of the apple varieties grown in Massachusetts and their origin. Some varieties resulted from a cross between two varieties. The origin of such varieties is expressed by placing the letter “X” between the parent varieties, for example; the Milton variety is a cross between Yellow Transparent X McIntosh.

McIntosh - Originated as a chance seedling in Dundas County, Ontario. Propagation of this variety began in about 1870.

Delicious - Originally distributed under the name Hawkeye, being discovered in Iowa in 1881.

Golden Delicious - Originated as a chance seedling in West Virginia. Introduced by Stark Brothers in 1916.

Starking Delicious - Bud mutation of Delicious. Originated in Monroeville, New Jersey, by Levis Mood. Introduced commercially in 1924, trademarked 1930.

Cortland - Originated from the cross of Ben Davis X McIntosh. The cross was made at Geneva, New York, by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. Introduced for trial about 1915.

Early McIntosh - Yellow Transparent X McIntosh. Originated in Geneva, New York, by the New York State Agricultural Station, Introduced for trial in 1923.

Puritan - Originated from the cross McIntosh X Red Astrachan made by Professor F. C. Sears at the University of Massachusetts about 1929.

Lodi - Montgomery X Yellow Transparent. Originated in Geneva, New York, by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Introduced for trial in 1924.

Macoun - McIntosh X Jersey Black. Originated in Geneva, New York, by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Introduced for trial in 1923.

Milton - Yellow Transparent X McIntosh. Originated in Geneva, New York, by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. Introduced for trial in 1923.

Red Gravenstein - Bud mutation of Gravenstein. Originated in San Juan County, Washington. Introduced commercially in 1924.

Roger's McIntosh - Bud mutation of McIntosh. Originated in Dansville, New York, by Isaac C. Rogers. Introduced commercially in 1932.

Melba - Open pollinated seedling of McIntosh. Originated in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, by the Division of Horticulture, Central Experimental Farm. Introduced commercially about 1924.

Red Melba (Melred) - Origin unknown, but first noticed from a lot of nursery trees from the Wellington and Davidson Nurseries, Fonthill, Ontario, Canada. Introduced commercially in the 1940's.

Wealthy Double Red - Bud mutation of Wealthy. Originated in Sodus, New York, by James G. Case. Introduced commercially in 1940.

Galbraith Baldwin - Bud mutation of Baldwin. Originated in Amherst, Massachusetts Agricultural Experiment Station (Floyd Galbraith). Introduced commercially in 1948.

Richared Delicious - Bud mutation of Delicious. Originated in Monitor, Washington. Introduced commercially in 1926.

Northern Spy - Originated in a seedling orchard at

East Bloomfield, New York. In 1852, the American Pomological Society listed it as a new variety of promise.

Northwestern Greening - Originated in Waupaca County, Wisconsin. Introduced in 1872.

Baldwin - A chance seedling in an orchard at Wilmington, Massachusetts. Propagated and widely introduced in Eastern Massachusetts as early as 1784.

Winter Banana - Originated on a farm near Adamsboro, Cass County, Indiana about 1876. Introduced in 1890.

Rhode Island Greening - Locality of the origin is not known with certainty but probably originated in the vicinity of Newport, Rhode Island.

Roxbury Russet - It is thought that this variety originated in Roxbury, Massachusetts, early in the seventeenth century.

Williams - Originated in Roxbury, Massachusetts. It was brought to the attention of the Massachusetts Society in 1830.

Wealthy - Originated by Peter W. Gideon, Excelsior, Minnesota from seed of the Cherry Crab about 1860.

Wolf River - Originated near Wolf River, Wisconsin. Catalogued by the American Pomological Society in 1881.

Yellow Transparent - Imported from Russia by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1870.

Red Astrachan - A Russian apple imported by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society in 1835.

Rome - Originated in Lawrence County, Ohio, before 1848.

