

Best Varieties of Apples to Plant.

A Practical and Successful Orchardist gives some Valuable Information for Beginners.

By F. Walden.

In the last issue of this paper appeared a letter from F. W. Nessly of Prosser, asking for information as to the best varieties of apples to plant. Inquiries similar to this are frequently made. As this is a practical question and one in which so many are interested, the substance of the answer sent to Mr. Nessly is given to the thousands of readers of *The Ranch*.

First, let it be noted that Mr. Nessly inquires as to apples suitable for a commercial orchard. A commercial orchard is planted for money-making. It is well known to all practical orchardists that there are many very fine apples that cannot be raised with profit. Many beginners in apple growing make the mistake of supposing that if an apple is really fine in quality and one that the people want, that is the apple to plant largely. The Esopus Spitzenburg, for instance, is a very fine apple and is in great demand, yet many advanced fruit growers have discarded it altogether, for the simple reason that it does not pay, or is far less profitable than some kinds not so fine in quality. Don't go to the commission men exclusively to find out what to plant. They may tell you what sells best, but in most cases they have but little idea as to productiveness of certain kinds of apple trees. The commission man and the retail dealer can tell you what is wanted and that is one important factor, but they cannot tell whether certain kinds can be grown profitably—that must be learned from the grower.

Then, again, an apple may come in at the wrong time of the year to be grown in large quantities. The McIntosh, commonly called the McIntosh Red, is a very fine apple, bears well, and the tree is a vigorous grower. It is being pushed very extensively by certain parties. If the growers are not careful some of them will be greatly damaged if not absolutely ruined in growing this apple. It is a fall apple, comes into the markets when they are overstocked with wind falls and culls. At such a time a large amount of McIntosh would swamp the markets. It must go and go quickly, for it will not keep.

It is conceded by our best growers that a commercial orchard should not have a large number of varieties. Three or four varieties or at most a half dozen are considered ample. What are the most profitable three or four varieties? There is not abso-

lute unanimity in answering this question, and yet there is substantial agreement among growers. In Missouri there is a state horticultural society that has been in existence for forty-five years. I clip a few things found in the *Western Fruit Grower* from the report of its last annual meeting, as this question was thoroughly discussed.

The forty-fifth annual meeting of the Missouri State Horticultural Society, held at Springfield, December 2 to 4, was one of the best meetings ever held by this society. Drury College chapel was the place of meeting and amply accommodated the large number of guests that assembled for the seven sessions. Delegations were present from Illinois, Ohio, West Virginia, Iowa, Kansas, Tennessee and Arkansas. Fruit growers from all parts of the state were present in large numbers.

Varieties for the Ozarks led by J. B. Wild, Sarcoxie.

The selection depends largely upon location. He first mentioned Ben Davis as the pioneer of commercial orcharding in the West. He had seen its days numbered for twenty-five years, yet still the great dividend producer stands as the big red apple of America. It has better form, fewer off years, is hardy, productive and finding its way into all markets of the world. He has been looking for a better variety, but at present would plant Ben Davis as first choice; Gano a close second. A newer variety is Payne's Keeper. It makes a good orchard tree and produces good apples.

He spoke of the Collins as of good color and a good bearer; quality not so good.

Mr. Gilkeson, of Central Missouri, named Ben Davis, Jonathan and Grimes Golden as the best three varieties.

Mr. Karnes, of St. Joseph: I find Yorks do best on high location. Wealthy is the best summer apple; for winter, the Ben Davis, Jonathan and Grimes Golden.

Mr. Murray finds it useless to plant Grimes Golden unless top grafted. He named the Jonathan, Ben Davis, Gano, Winesap, Missouri Pippin and in certain locations York Imperial as winter varieties; and the Early Harvest, Red Astrachan, Benoni, Duchess and Wealthy for summer. The Yellow Transparent blights badly.

Mr. Butterfield recommended, for North Missouri, the Gano, York, Missouri Pippin and Ben Davis, and for South Missouri, the Gano, York, Ben Davis and Winesap, when the location is right.

Others gave lists about the same as to varieties.

I have an experimental orchard of seventy-five varieties. I have studied them thoroughly, and I think I know their relative values as commercial apples, and I would recommend the following varieties for the Yakima Valley and all similar locations: Ben Davis, Jonathan, Rome Beauty and Missouri Pippin. If I were to enlarge the list, I would add Winesap, Grimes' Golden, and Yellow Newton Pippin. In some localities the Winesap tree does not do well. That should be ascertained before planting

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this variety extensively. Only in certain localities is the apple of the Yellow Newton good. That fact should be ascertained before planting to any extent. The Grimes' Golden is not a uniform bearer, full one year and light another. It is a really very fine apple in quality. It sells well in the Chicago markets, but not nearly so well in Seattle. This difference may be owing to the fact that it is not well known in the latter market. The Mammoth Black Twig I have sub judice—on trial—and am not prepared to put it in the recommended list yet. The apple does not keep well; in this respect it is a decided disappointment. In quality it is fine, the apple is large, the tree a vigorous grower, and it bears well.

The Arkansas Black is one of the finest looking apples I ever saw. It sells well—none better for me. The tree is a beauty and will not split nor break. My trees are young yet, and in time this magnificent apple may redeem itself from the only serious objection to it—it bears fairly well one year and then nearly fails the next. Unless it improves in this respect with age it will have to go to the foot of the class or somewhere in that region.

More will be said as to the best apples to plant in future issues of *The Ranch*, but this will do for one sitting.

Of the three great features of life, Goethe speaks in substance as follows:

Is MONEY lost—SOMETHING lost. We must get it back again.

Is HONOR lost—MUCH lost. We must through success make people forget our loss.

Is COURAGE lost—EVERYTHING LOST. Better you had ne'er been born.

That is a deep and wide saying, that no miracle can be wrought without faith, without the worker's faith in himself, as well as the recipient's faith in him. And the greater part of the worker's faith in himself is made up of the faith that others believe in him.—Amos Barton.

Many a time when it is necessary for children to go away from home in order to get high school work they do not get it.

Mr. Oliver T. Bright, the well-known Chicago educator, thinks this is one of the very greatest benefits of the centralized or consolidated school idea.

Besides being better in every way, these schools cost less per capita.