Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.
Apple FACTS and Experience

SEVEN YEARS AFTER the descriptions herein of Delicious, Black Ben Davis and Champion were written, and—we could change them only to make them stronger. Delicious is recognized to-day as being of finer quality than any other apple known. The old tree is now 21 years old, has stood 40° below zero without injury, and has borne 15 successive crops without a failure.

Champion has proven a market apple that excels even Mo. Pippin as a quick payer, unequalled as a drought-resister, and superior to Northern Spy as an absolutely woolly aphis-resistant tree.

Black Ben Davis is taking its place, even more rapidly than we had anticipated (for introducing new apples is a slow process), as the hardiest and best of the entire Ben Davis family. In time, no one will plant Ben Davis or Gano who knows and can get genuine Black Ben Davis, and it will become the great American export apple.

First Ever Sold. — Crockett Brown, Merchant, to Prof. Van Daman, Oct. 3, '02: In 1874, '75 and '76 I hauled apples off the original Black Ben D. tree to Western Kan., Gt. Bend, Oxford, Wellington, Wichita, etc. Tree was 7 or 8 yrs. old, 12 ft. tall; branches full; bushel of fruit each year. Apple was always large and fine, dark red, juicy and good; used to save them to top off my loads. Sold at $2.50 to $3 a bushel. Best market apple we have to-day.

NO DOUBT ... of Distinctness.—When in Ark., this fall I found the place where the term 'Black Ben D.' was originated. Now found, for the true origin of B. B. D. nor its distinctness from Gano.—Prof. Van Daman.

20 x 20 FEET.—Prof. Van Daman to D. L. Wentz, Benton Co., Ark., Oct. 3, '02: You cannot do better than to plant all Black Ben Davis and Jonathan. ... Set 20 x 20 feet and cut out when they need it.—Prof. Van Daman.

He made Ark., Apples Famous.—W. G. Vinecenheller, Ark. Exp. Stn., 1900: Had some black Ben Davis, and found its fruiting in Arkansas—Black B. D. was larger and heavier than any Ben Davis beside them; many were too big for the apple-peeler. Dried fruit is heavier. Bears more regularly; bore good crops when B. D. failed. Better flavor, stands cutting out and keeps better. Had beggar nurserymen to graft it, before Mr. Stark saw it in 1885. After he saw its worth and bought the stock, then all wanted it. Do all we can to protect Stark Bro's. ... but for Mr. Stark, Black Ben Davis probably would never have been sent out.

JOHN WRAGG, late Vice-Pres't Iowa State Hort. Society, said:

"The man who notes the value of a new fruit, introduces and spreads it abroad, is even a greater benefactor than the originator—who does scarcely anything if he lets it live out its life and die unknown. But he who sees its value and distributes it widely, does very much more than making two blades of grass grow where one grew before."

Kieffer APPLE.—What Kieffer is among pears, Black Ben Davis is among apples. And, as Prof. Meehan has pointed out, had not an alert nurseryman seen the Kieffer and forecasted its value, it, too, would have kept the noiseless tenor of its way, unknown, unhonored and unsung.

Slow, Expensive, Hard work is required in introducing new apples—no matter how superlative, how much better they are than old kinds. Many take it for granted that a variety cannot amount to much unless they find it mentioned in every catalog or voted upon by every Hort'l Society. Jeffers originated more than 50 years ago, yet it is found in few nurseries. York Imperial was brought to public notice nearly 50 years ago, but to-day is little known in many sections.

PROF. THOS. MEEHAN wrote: "When a fruit becomes widely scattered, it achieves popular favor, simply because people know no better. It was the fashion to take votes at Pomological meetings as to best varieties, and hundreds voted on the best they knew. No new and superior variety could get votes in this way. It takes time for superior varieties to become well known."

Force of Habit is strong in the nurseryman, as in other people. Besides, there's less risk—and COST—in raising strong growing, well known, sure-to-be-called-for sorts. For people will plant what everybody plants, never stopping to learn WHY.
This Thing Was NOT Done In a Corner.—There exist persons so unfortunately constituted as to be incapable of comprehending that others besides themselves are working earnestly and with skill that they have and in their own way, to do good in the world. These over-suspicious souls easily arrogate to themselves a monopoly of good intentions, even while they lightly question the integrity of purpose and the motives of others,—apparently careless, or ignorant, of the inevitable recoil. Since 1896 we have sent Black Ben Davis and other new apples around the world—to India, China, Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand.

AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, 26 Mar., 1901: You will be glad to hear your Apples of Commerce will not take the Aphis. There is NOT A SHADOW OF SUSPICION about their having Aphis resistant stock. We have tested them for Aphis and the following was sent us: "APPLES—TAKEN AGAINST WOOLLY APHIS. Here, we call it "American blight." We could not sell an apple tree if not worked on Aphis resistant stock. We have not sold a single nurseryman in dealing with us. It is a matter of utmost importance that you be enabled to do nothing that should be of vital importance to you to work up a stock of trees that are required where Woolly Aphis is bad. Black Ben Davis is a grand apple.

Later, 19th Sept., 1902: Apple of Commerce is giving the greatest satisfaction to all growers. The tree is absolutely aphis resistant. Champion also HAS NOT TAKEN THE APHIS.—D. Hoy & Son.

Men Who Do Things were ever decried by envious souls. "And now at this very day" comes a Rip Van Winkle nursery firm who have evidently decided, Canute-like, to stay the restless Black Ben Davis tide. Many letters of this "enquiring turn" have been sent us by recipients:

Better Late Than NEVER.—Nov. 22, 1902: We wish to learn regarding oriois, etc., of Black B. D.; will appreciate any information: Who was the first owner? Who was the first interested? Who was the first protected? Who was the first owner of the property? Where did he come from? Who were the business men that operated it? Is there any one who remembers or has any additional information that you can give will be appreciated. Thanking you in advance.

CAUGHT TARTAR.—L. M. Winans to — Oct. 26, '02: "Replying to yours: Varieties sent you were Stark Trees, Champion and Bk. B. Davis. This I have to say to say: Champion is a very choice of apples—on the same with 1000 Gano, bought from local nurseries; have 1000 Bk. B. Davis, bought from Stark's. They are set on adjoining 50's; as far as you can see fruit and trees plainly you can see a decided difference. I'm so much bet ter to have the Black B. Davis but have this Stark's Williams. Now, Stark Bros have no mortgages on me. I'm not agent for them nor any one else, neither have I ever rec'd one cent from them in any way, not even a cigar; but will say they have done an immense amount of good to the fruit industry in pushing and causing the setting largely of such fine apples, so well adapted for this S. W. as Champion and Bk. B. Davis."

The "Red Hot" Firm.—Had two letters from — nursery; enclose copy of answer to last to indicate which best legged for "enquiry" that I told them I'd send and left — Frank Femmons, Home Orchard, Madera Co., Calif.

His Suspicion WAS Well Founded.—"Yours 23d with request for Black Ben Davis apples came to day — For 60 years I've known of the confusion often growing out of local names for fruits and had supposed this B. B. D. vs. Bk. B. D. to be the same; but after checking, found that this is the case, that the Bk. B. D. was from England and the B. B. D. is ours. Many years ago, when living in Mo., I knew of Wm. Stark as one of the foremost horticulturists of the west,—when I wanted trees I naturally turned to the old nursery. No one could ask for better or more honorable treatment than Stark Bro's have always given me — "You are there in the native home of the two apples, and many others of great value, and have advantages in learning the true history than I can ever hope to have. — Frank Femmons, Mar. 28, 1902.

Great Sport.—From B. A. Masters, Appanoose Co., Iowa, Oct. 27, 1902: Delicious apple is good. — Please to note Prof. Van Deman's articles on Black Ben Davis which appeared in the Journal. Bk. B. D. is a grand sport over your Gano-B. B. D. Am interested in having it sitted out.

King of the Orchard.—Wesley Page, Supt. Kooine Orchards, Arapahoe Co., Colo., Nov., 1900: The 1-year old Black Ben Davis sent Mr. C. B. Kuntzpe Staple, 1900, have fully caught up with 22 y. trees, planted same time. Those B. B. D. bore last summer, colored perfectly, handsomest apple I ever saw. Certainly a very young bearer, and the fruit cannot be excelled.

Later, July, 1901: Have been busy picking Mont. O. cherries; a fine crop for 4-57. may have 6 gallons of apple; --"one tree" is quite a"crop; with but 47" of fruit. These fruit are the only crab for me; they are full limbs touch the ground. Black B. D. are fine; an easy leader of all winter apples. Our Ben Davis are small compared with Black B. D.—the king of the Orchard.

Later, Oct., 1901, the Black B. D. and Black B. D. B. at the Kuntzpe in Peters. Mr. Kuntzpe couldn't think more of them. People came from far and near to see the orchard, and everyone thinks it can't be beat. Mr. Spaulding of Port Collins says he has traveled all over the U. S. and never saw as many Black B. D. as he saw in that orchard. B. B. D. is very equalled; says if Delicious is a good keeper, no apple grown will outsell it. B. B. D. is so far ahead of Ben Davis it should not bear the name; side by side they compare like silk and cotton— and B. D. is the silk. Champion are very fine—uniform color, size, and not small either.—Wesley Page.
TRADE-MARK Fruits.—Pres. J. C. Ferris, Iowa Hort. Soc., says:—
"It is not the purpose to complain because the originator or introducer of new varieties controls valuable specialties. To abridge this privilege would be to discourage production. The producer is justified just as an inventor is justified in protecting a valuable invention, or an author in receiving remuneration for his work."—Fruit Grower.

Injustice to New Fruits.—Originators of new fruits must spend many years of patient toil and investigation. And the desirability of new and improved fruits is conceded on all sides. Yet originators are not encouraged ... and finding originating unprofitable, such men as Jacob Moore, and others, are abandoning their life work.—Fruit Grower.

No Nurseryman without protection can afford to pay an originator—for he has no protection himself, nor is he able to protect the public. For the piraters have no interest—nor conscience—in keeping a variety pure and unaltered. A Trade-Mark Fruit, like trade-mark merchandise of any other kind, means a guaranty, a protection, to buyers. MAJOR HOLSINGER, in Western Fruit Grower, March, 1900.—"Is or is not Gano identical with Black B. D.?" I pronounce them the same. ... The best new variety introduced in the last quarter century. I ... for a place in the first three winter apples—Ben Davis, York Imp', Gano.

Later, Dec. 30, 1901: I promised yesterday to do you justice in the matter of Black B. Davis vs. Gano. At first I thought them identical. In a later examination called to our assistance are several of the very best horticulturists. I feel positive now that they are different.—Frank Holsinger, in Wes. Frt. Grower, Jan., '02: ... Black B. D. is a distinct variety from Gano. "Crow" is not a pleasant dish, yet I take it with good grace. I pronounced it the best test, and yet I feel that I was entirely wrong and unprepared to give the necessary and honest information to give the public my conclusions. While I wish this dish had been spared me, I accept it with all condiments.—Maj. Holsinger, later, in Wes. Frt. Grower, May, 1902: We did not expect when we gave our opinion of the two apples exhibited in Topinka to stir the animals'uffered so much that they could not be seen through the door. Black B. Davis, one "Gano," were not the same variety, noting differences. I confess I did it very much against my own prejudices, as I have during all my life insisted in my opinions and judgments. No other, like others, did I admit superficially. I had not even taken the precaution to investigate the matter carefully ... I tried to have Messrs. Goodman and Gano with us in the final test. They failed to tarry with us, or I feel assured ... I am sure I have been hurt to my prejudice. The horticultural gentlemen who did join us in our examination.

In the discussion on this question, I am found fault with principally by my own belief. I am at a loss as to what procedure I ought to pursue. Now why this? Is it a fact that competition is allowed to thus bias the nurseryman in his contention? I've had my say. Mr. Goodman has been equally positive on the other side; he sets considerable stress on Prof. Stinson's opinion. Who is Prof. Stinson, that he should pose as an expert on nomenclature? ... In his report Prof. Stinson says: "Black B. D., Elris, and Ark. Belle are from Washington Co., Ark. If you want trees you will not find them in your neighboring nurseryman's catalogues."

I was even more pronounced. I said, "they are the same." By all means give us a committee: but let it be one qualified to speak as an oracle. It will require time to fully determine this question of difference. ... But then the question of the next seventy years. My answer is a very plain one. I have a doubt not, will be done by one of my three sons, possibly by all; as each is intensely alive to the subject. Of one thing I am convinced: That should they prove to be the same, someone, I mean the same person, who shall have planted them and thrice blessed he who shall have influenced others to plant them.—Maj. Frank Holsinger, in Wes. Frt. Grower.

Twigs with leaves attached and cut from 2-yr. trees, of 4 sorts, each twig growing with exactly the same exposure, etc., were sent Prof. Beale for microscopic examination. The 4 twigs, Ben Davis, Black Ben Davis, Gano, Givens (apparently a Ben Davis sdlg.), were marked respectively B 1, B 2, B 3, B 4. Prof. Beale did not then, nor does he to this day, know the identity of any one of the 4 sorts.

Firnest, hardest, stiffest leaf ... drout-resisting, fungus-resisting.—From Prof. W. J. Beale, Mich. Exp. St'n, Azzie'1 College P. O., Mich., Oct. 8, 1902: In my examinations of the four varieties, grown in the same house, the apple twigs, one should be very cautious. To determine the relative structure microscopically is not so easy as might at first be supposed. In feeling of the fresh leaves and bending them between the thumb and finger, B 2 [Black B. D.] appears firmer, stiffer, than either of the others. B 1 [Ben Davis] and B 3 (Gano) have been considered [friable] next stiffest. In other words B 2 [Black B. D.] has stiffest, hardest thickest leaves, the other three not differing much. B 2 leaves remind one of the leaves of the Klieber pear; they should beat the others for drout-resisting, fungus-resisting. In examinations of each leaf ... In looking down at the upper epidermis of the leaves of the Klieber pear, the cells are thicker, the walls thicker, the palisade cells seem smaller.—W. J. Beale.

Messrs. Chapman of Boulder Co., Chapin of Delta Co., and Spaulding of Larimer Co., Colo., here this week; all went to see the Black B. D. ... Black Ben Davis apples for Colo. Co., see P. Page, Littleton, Colo. Co.

Dear Mr. Fernmons: I am much interested in yours Oct. 8, and shall be glad to undertake the examination and to write you results thereof in detail. You will be free to use whatever I send you."—Prof. E. J. Wickson.
GRATITUDE of the World for Black Ben D.—From Frank Fennoms, Home Orchard, Madera Co., Calif., Oct. 30, 1899: Wish you could see my apples! Lawver poor—as you've always said. ...York Imp. a grand apple. Jefferis fine. Black Ben Davis I'm proud of—it is simply grand.

Later, Mar. 16, '00: Delicious 2-yr. grafts bore; certainly high quality. Grimes Golden a good short while, but soon loses quality. ...Gano is a Ben Davis of rare quality. ...Greening is a splendid variety. Black B. D. still holds its own; sound yet. Sent specimens to many parts of the world; everybody praises it highly. A grand apple and you deserve the gratitude of the world for its introduction.—Frank Fennoms.

Later, Feb. 1, '02: I've proved Gano 5 years, Black B. D. 3 years, and how the two can be confounded is more than I can understand. Glad Maj. Holinger found a difference. ...Black B. D., 2-yr. top grafts—loaded. You make no mistake in pushing it.

Later, Sept. 16, '02: Fruit here is fully a month late. Black B. D. just beginning to color; Gano shows none yet. Gano very full last year, but few this. B. B. D. trees are too full. It acts like an every year business apple.

Later, Sept. 24, '02: Your suggestion that committee come here at your expense is kindly considered and reported. Should Gano and Black B. D. Orchard would meet my hearty approval, if conditions were as favorable as last year. Season here has been peculiar; all fruits fully a month late. My gano tree (I grafted the others 2 yrs ago; am now as I wanted) has but few apples this year. Black B. D. are all full, making a good show, but will not be so fine and large as last year. ...I will send some typical specimens with wood and foliage of both, with statement of my experience and observations, to Prof. E. J. Wickson, of Cal. State University, whom I know as one of the best authorities on fruits of all kinds.

Later, Oct. 16, '02: Yours reed' enclosure letter from Parker Earle, also notes of C. M. S., on history of B. B. D. I sincerely thank you. Am going to try to get started on a marching on this. It is not that you or I grown here 4 yrs ago I've always felt sure it was an apple that by its own merits was able to conquer in any field, and the more I see of it, the more I love it. It has gained in three of its characteristics. I can stand alone at the head for many years to come. ...And then I'm glad of your success in making such an apple known to the orchard planters of the whole country—a proud honor and you deserve the reward.

The former owners of Black B. D. were Bill and Anna J. Parker Earle. Stayman Winesap are this year bearing their first, but they don't show up highly; may do better another year. ...Wrote Prof. Wickson as to B. B. D. vs. Gano, asking him to make examination and report.

Trade demands are now enough. I may say every box of fruit has given satisfaction—it was mostly grown on Stark Trees.

Later, Oct. 27, '02: Nov. Western Fruit Grocer rec'd. Went out to-day and had a good long visit of admiration to my oldest Black Ben Davis tree. Looks like a fifteen year apple tree—growing in pebbles. ...Some of the bright red faces shine in the sunshine as if conscious of their triumph and vindication. I feel it indeed rightly crowned "King of the Orchard" and worthy of being repeated; and it will always deserve the gratitude of the world for its introduction.—Frank Fennoms.

Firmly Fixed. ...A Grand Success.—Later, Feb. 7, '03.—Have watched new apples, you've so kindly sent me from time to time, and gladly give you hearty approval. One in particular, I am proud to say, is now in every way a powerful up hold identity fixed in this country that, like our mountains, will stand.—Frank Fennoms.
DELICIOUS in HAWAII.—Later, Feb. 19, 1903: Altitude of orchard, 3000 ft., on side of mountain, or low ridge. ... Was laughed at when I began to graft Ben Davis, but it is an asset on a dry ridge. ... Intended to re-graft the last of my Gano trees this spring. ... My re-grafting has been to Black Ben Davis, some Champion, but this spring I re-grafted 'twill be quite different. It's an art; a lady said, "Why, what a delicious apple! What is its name?" Urged a gentleman who "didn't dare eat apples" just to try one,—"That's fine; can eat that apple," and his eye showed his pleasure. Everyone delighted with it. Some went home with a tree.—From Prof. P. P. Femmons.

Worth MILLIONS.—Later, Feb. 24, '02: As to caution: Refer to intro-duction of Wash. Navel orange into Cal. When first fruited at Riverside all orange growers of So. Cal. went wild over it. Orchards were planted everywhere. The fruit could be sold for over $25 a box, and multiplied millions of dollars to the state. Perhaps another illustration is the intro-duction of Elberta peach in the east—we all know the history and results. Fact is, if you plant the inedible or commercial aspect of fruit, you can legally market it, for the watermelons, &c., in fruit trees, when ready, allow time to be cautious too long. While prudent to use best judgment, a growing demand must be quickly supplied.

Find herewith, report Prof. Wiskon sent me. There is no higher author-ity on black grapes. From the herewith brief description of a new variety, Ben Davis, I think a distinct variety. Distinct and Different. ...—From Prof. E. J. Wicken, author of the great pomological work, California Fruits, etc., to Frank Femmons.—University of Cal. College of Agr., Berkeley, Nov. 3, '02: Specimens arrived in year's growth is still similar, even given the chance to their careful examination. General aspect, both of the fruit and of branch, gives the clear impression that the varieties are different; examination of all features usually employed in pomological, differential point of view. There are, I believe, the same species of difference, and the difficulty of pointing out by descriptive words the distinctions which the general aspect declares to be present, is great. I have, however, prepared such descriptions as follows:

Gano

Two-year-old wood—brownish red, nearly free from down; dots few, light yellow, variable in size.

One-year-old wood—reddish purple; downy; dots very few, whitish.

Leaves—sharply serrated; medium size; red from nearly free from down, petiole and mid-rib partly tinged with red; many leaves retained by fruiting at this date. 

Medium—large; round ovate, inclined to oblong in some specimens; light yellow petiole, covered with dark red; faint lilac bloom, dots numerous, variable in size, russety aspect on yellow skin, faintly yellow on red, variegated walk and side of leaf usually slender, cavity deep, even or three furrowed in fruit; skin greenish yellow, acru russet; basin wide, abrupt, channeled; calyx large open, petals quite ultimate, base white with faint yellowish tingie; flavor sub-acid, pleasant, not marked.

Follow these notes very carefully, line from line down to next line.

Black Ben Davis

Two-year-old wood—brownish purple, quite downy, dots few, more uniformly, light yellow, variable in size.

One-year-old wood—reddish purple; downy, more uniformly, whitish, large.

Leaves—sharply serrated, medium to large; reverse quite downy; petiole and mid-rib partly tinged with red; all leaves in good color. large; uniformly round ovate; greenish yellow, quite uniformly covered with deep red; purplish, or black, purple-red in the sun, very faint indication of stripes or blotches, color very solid and uniform; dense lilac bloom; dots light and rather conspicuous because of dark background. 

Fruit

Coloring—light yellow edge slightly tinged with red; skin thicker, well russeted on light green; basin wide, deep, oblong, channeled; calyx large, partly closed, petals irregularly dis-colored, flavor very slight yellowish tinge; flavor pronounced sub-acid, inclined to aromatic; superior to B. Davis for eating. 

Precipitation of the form is noteworthy. The 8 Gano show wide variation—brownish from roundish ovate to oblong, while the 5 Black B. D. are almost identical in form—a very handsome and uniform round ovate. Coloring is also very handsome, brownish-green with some red in the color, and the reverse of Black B. D. leaves separates them again. Gano shows a marked maturing of some leaves, while foliage of Black B. D. is still fully green, Fruits at all stages of ripening all nicely retained.

Prevailing form of the fruit is note-worthy. The 8 Gano show wide variation—brownish from roundish ovate to oblong, while the 5 Black B. D. are almost identical in form—a very handsome and uniform round ovate. Coloring is also very handsome, brownish-green with some red in the color, and the reverse of Black B. D. leaves separates them again. Gano shows a marked maturing of some leaves, while foliage of Black B. D. is still fully green, Fruits at all stages of ripening all nicely retained.

There seems to be a different under-color in the two kinds. Gano seems to have a prevailing yellow with green suggestions, while Black B. D. takes its red on a green basis more directly. Stalks also different; slender in Gano, uniformly pale for the B. D.

In flavor there is marked difference: Gano being flatter and less marked than old Ben Davis, while Black B. D. is clearly better. This was evident at the point of the advantage when the advantage was expressed in color and in fruit. I conclude then from specimens of these two fruits grown side by side in the mountain district of Cal., which is exceptionally well suited to de-velop the best there is in apple varieties, that Gano and Black Ben Davis are distinct and different; that the former by its irregularity of form, and the latter by its uniformity of shape, rich, bold color and superior flavor, promises to be a profitable market fruit.—E. J. WICKSON, Hort., Calif. Exp. S'r.
E. P. POWELL, Hort. Ed., in N. Y. Tribune Farmer, Nov. 27, 1902: Champion, Black Ben Davis, Delicious—l find it difficult to say which is the most beautiful. I've never seen anything handsomer. B. B. D. in appearance is very much a hit. It is a very rich dark, crimson, with a slightly shining of gold at spot. Has beautifully cut petals, its leaves now more flattened, with an undertone of yellow, richly covered with crimson and very deep dark stripes. Delicious is more or less covered with crimson. Delicious is by far the more difficult to classify, it seems to me that the structure of so much of the beautiful Delicious, the more I ate it the more I liked it. The aroma is something peculiar, and the texture is such as to make it a perfect apple, at least in its qualities. Perhaps Delicious fairly belongs to the apple. Core is very small,—the smallest I ever saw in so large an apple. Champion and Black B. D. much better than everything else that I have seen. My own black, rich crimson apples to me belong to the same class, but an apple that not so well east as west, we have here three finest acquisitions I am acquainted with for the orchard. I've already planted them ... would not hesitate to plant them largely. I have in my orchard no new apples that rival them. The old ones are in most cases in sharp contrast to them. It looks as if Beauty, York Imperial. Black B. D. is not more like a Ben Davis than it is like a pumpkin. Its glorious beauty is matched only by a very select Jordan. I am sure that the market value of the kind is the one that I can not say. Why not call it Black Ben? I should consider an orchard of B. B. D. as good as a gold mine.—E. P. Powell, Oneida Co., N. Y.

Apple Kings.—Later, Nov. 13, '02: You see what I think of Stark apples. They are the Apple Kings, the noblest products of the orchard. You are doing us a big favor to introduce such magnificent fruit.

Most Extraordinary.—Later, in N. E. Homestead, Jan. 3, 1903: Let me call attention to new sorts. Two years ago was favored with box of small, pretty-looking flowers. They are the kind that are grown in Stewart's Golden. [We grew S. Golden 30 years ago, but 18-yr. orchard trees here have never yielded well—not even a peck of fruit.—STARK BRO'S.]

Another apple of most extraordinary quality is rightly called Delicious. [We do not know what the naming about with this apple, but it is a rich, crimson, with a very small rich crimson; flesh golden. Black B. D. and Champion are magnificent looking apples—deepest gold, overlaid crimson. In quality they simply rank with the very best. I have no hesitancy in saying that these three sorts will surpass these two, as their keeping qualities are equal to their beauty. York Imperial! is doing admirably with me, only that it is too subject to scab, this and Mother, total failures this year.—E. P. Powell.

市场竞争应保持良性竞争，不应存在不正当的竞争行为。
58-ACRE B. B. D. orchard Speaks for Itself.—Prof. Van Deman, in Western Fruit Grower, Oct., '02: As I've said before about B. B. D.-Gano contention, the matter is a simple one. I know it, and I have made an calculated trip to Ark. to see for myself the trees in bearing. If there were any to be found,—in connection with another matter which took me to that state. I made a point to test to certainity the matter. I have heard much been pushed by Stark Bro's, and had promised myself and them to some
time critically investigate the matter. ... I first went where the original trees were, the one said to be stood, at the rear of a log cabin
by the two old people, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Thomas. They spoke of the apples in very approving terms as better tasted than Ben
Davis and keeping later. ... Next visited Stephen Thomas, who lives on
acres, but he told me his trees was a failure. He said, several, injuring the tree by roosting in it so much, and of the cutting off of the
big branch causing its death. They said it bore regularly, and fruit kept
longer than Ben Davis. The tree was said to be stood on. They had
lived in that neighborhood from before the time the B. B. D. apple
tree came into existence and knew it well from the time it began to bear
enough to attract attention. He said "Parson John Black" once wanted a
cabin in the woods where these trees was said to be planted, on one of
the corners." Rev. Black's name is perpetuated in present name of
the apple. It was while a Mr. Reagan was living there that the tree
about which so much stir is now made attracted attention, because
of the fruit it bore. It was so red and kept so well. Was also of good size
and a good apple to eat, also there were many other good seedlings all over
that region and plenty of grafted kinds. Mr. Collins said that in 1892
G. L. Guthrie took a few "cuttings" from the tree and made root grafts,
which he set in his garden in a little row. When one year old set them in
orchards. He got one of these tree from his mother, Mrs. Benjamin
Davis, that it died in 1901, after it bore a lot of fruit.

Next went to the Beatty farm where a son of the woman who planted
one of the second generation trees, now lives. He told me ... that the tree
bore some, and his orchard was full of "Ben Davis" apples. It was
fattened in, which killed it in 1901. Upon being asked why he did such a
foolish thing, he said it was thrifty and made good shade for the hogs!
The old Guthrie farm, now owned by John F. Bain near Lincoln, Ark.
was visited. I saw the first and second generation trees that were
planted by Guthrie. It was easy enough to see them before the place was fairly
reached. The apples glistened thru the falling rain. The trees were well
cared for, as was some part of the orchard. Mr. Bain brought me to
another orchard where Gano trees were bearing abundantly and I
wanted to see it. I had wanted to get one of the best orchard-
s in Arkansas (Sam'l T. Cole, Crittenden County,) who has 83 acres of
Black B. D. trees 4 years old. ... Mr. Cole said he had known the variety for many
years and Gano as well, that they were not the same; that as evidence of his opinion
the 38 acres of B. B. D. spoke for itself. He also said he would plant
a B. B. D. as soon as he could. Mr. Cole 2200 B. B. D. trees.—Stark Bro's.—W. Fruit
Grower, Oct., *9902.

NINE POMOLOGISTS Unanimous.—Washington, D. C., Nov. 13, '02.—Some
are writing to me about Black B. D.-Gano and I always respond, saying
just what I saw, and am in no manner fearful of saying anything that will
hurt the truth. The truth is the best thing that can be said about this
variety and it will stand forever.

— wrote me to send them a part of one of the
B. B. D. I got in Ark.; I did so. Also a Gano that I got there. The
apple will talk for themselves. This firm is "red hot," but I will go ahead
and fear nothing. They can't get me to tell anything but the truth and
that will hurt no one who does not need to be hurt. Two days ago
I sent some of the B. B. D. Gano and Ben Davis I got in Ark. and some other
apples of the Ben Davis type, and in the presence of 8 other pomologists at the
Dep't of Agr., we gave them all a critical test. They were different,
for the same parent stock, for the B. B. D. and Gano. Mr. — too will surely have to see and acknowledge the facts
some time, as to B. B. D. I did when I saw them.

Your new apple [KING DAVID—awarded 1st Prize by Ill. State Hort. Soc.,
Dec., '00.] is only a "toy" to the mark I developed the apple. Its quality is as good as
Grimes, which means THE VERY BEST, I gave a specimen to be modeled and
grounded at the Dep't of Agr. They were all delighted with it there.
Your Delicious was also tested and pronounced EXCELLENT. They are
modeling one of those, too. We want some from Iowa. I will then
match marking, and I will say something about this variety. ... R. E. Van Deman.

OTHER Documents Will Be Convinced.—April 6th, Prof. Mr. Irvine, Editor Western Fruit Grower, said all that is necessary in
vindication of my position. It is only a foolish bigot who will not change
his mind on sufficient evidence; nothing convinced me there was a differ-
cence in the apple. I felt that there was and I was out seeing the trees in being.
Before that I did not know absolutely, and my said I thought they were the same, from the samples I had seen.
If more people who are open to conviction, as every fair minded man
should be, go down there and see the trees in Ark. as I did, they will be
convinced too. No one has any reason for getting 'bitter' over this matter. — and — and finally HAVE TO see a differ-
ence between B. B. D. and Gano, and will be only manly to say so WHEN
THEY SEE IT, and the reverse not to do it. — R. E. Van Deman.
I Holsinger,

Beats very them

Later, this from Fruit fine

Later, FOUR matters.

matters.

hardy

similarity we ever, have and

ly.

B.

Gano (Romanite);

distinct, and

color, 

size, distinct, and

careful

color, and

divine

color;

B.

is
careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;

Black

B.

is

careful of

color, and

divine

color;
King of All Apples.—From L. M. Winans, Webster Co., Mo., Oct. 5, 1901: My 1000-acre orchard of Stark Trees I found to true name—8 seedlings in the whole 80,000. Orchard now 5 years old; have sold the crop, on trees, for $10,000 spot cash. Who can beat this record? It is surely thru Stark Bro’s. that I have got so far. I think that the best of trees, true to name. Champion (only 4 years planted) is by far the best of all. It is a good flavor. Strong, drouth-resisting, wiry grower, young bearer, andfree setter of apples, as handsome and perfect as can possibly be grown. . . . Wish had put out 10,000 Champion instead of 1000.—L. M. Winans.

Late in the Season.—From B. D. Black Ben Davis is absolutely King of All Apples. A more solid black red than Gano, trees much more thrifty. Champion my first choice, so smooth and even in size; just all facers; handsome, a very late keeper.

Champions are Fine.—From G. A. Atwood, Editor Practical Fruit Grower, Springfield, Mo.: Drove over the Winans-Parker orchard and was mightily pleased with all I saw. Trees young, but many loaded with apples. Mr. Winans busy picking fruit, . . . praises champion, and they are fine.

1000 ACRES.—Made special trip to the celebrated Winans-Parker orchard to see the splendid crop of apples. It’s a sight to see every year. Mrs. Winans has discovered those thousands of trees, as handsome a lot as one could wish to see. Apples were remarkable for size, color, freedom from defects. Mr. Winans assured me that he is in 100 acres, and I was not satisfied. There’s a fact they were properly grown at nursery . . . have since received right kind of treatment. The Stark Bro’s Nurseries, Louisiana, Mo., from whom Mr. W. obtained the trees, have good reason to feel proud of this orchard.

Mr. Winans has had large experience in orchard work. He stands up for Mr. Pippin, which some good orchard men say should not be planted any more. . . . He calls down Ben Davis—does not think it averages with some others. He has observed that Black B. D. and Gano flourish very well, and he greatly admires, As to Black B. D. and Gano being the same, he said former a more solid black red, trees more thrifty. . . . Anyway, a most handsome tree and one that he is willing to give to others, and considers it a great a favorite. . . . wished he had planted 10,000 trees instead of 1000. Some of his 5-yr.-old trees have borne their third crop. Tree hardy, apples very handsome, smooth, even in size, late keepers—Prac. Fruit Grower.

Most All of Us are Human . . . and It’s Human to err.—Have fruited Black Ben Davis for many years, but found they do not compare with Champion. Have sent beautiful samples to inquirers. I see some say B. B. D. and Gano are identical. They do resemble but B. B. D. far more valuable. . . . Some said Gold and Juicy plums were the same.—Jas. W. Waite.

Horticultural history—and, for that matter, all history—abounds with similar mistakes. World grape was pronounced Concord—and instantly dealers were filling orders for Worden with Concord, just as now they are doing with Gano,—making confusion worse confounded, The Senator (All-Over Red) originated with "Grandfather" Jno. Holt, Wash. Co., Ark.; old tree was forked at ground, and forks 10 in. diameter in 1860; first grafted by Earl Holt. Oliver Red, also called Ohio Red, originated with John Oliver. In time All-Over Red and Oliver Red became confused, because of similarity of sound. Oliver Red (Ohio Red) is a shy bearer; not valued. Even the august Am. Pomological Soc., 10 years ago declared Paragon (of Tenn.) and Mam. Black Twig (of Ark.), identical; and so we changed all our Catalogues, Price Lists, Records, Packing Houses, Forms, etc., using name, "Paragon (M. B. Twig)," and took up nursery stakes, etc., throwing the two sorts together—causing no end of loss and confusion. A year or two later we learned the truth, but meanwhile many thousands of trees had gone out.

Far Better than Gano.—From Theo. Smith, Whitman Co., Wash., Jan. '01: Black B. D. bore this season: the apple is far better than old Ben Davis or Gano, and entirely distinct from either. Darker color, better flavor, more solid and jucier. Your new fruits are proving of exceptional value and I thank you for benefits rec’d from your enterprise in introducing them.

Kept Till Aug.—Later, Oct., 1901: Bi ck B. D. kept until Aug. Much better apple than Ben Davis or Gano. Virtually the same as Black B. D. and left word that Gano and Black B. D. were the same. Had he come to my place I could have convinced him to the contrary.—Theo. Smith.

In 20 Years . . . Will Come Wisdom.—Later, Nov. 5, '02: Exhibited Black Ben Davis, Black B. D., and Con. Black B. D. much better. The Con. Black B. D. . . . Hort., Exp. St., Pullman, Wash. He pronounced B. B. Davis same as Gano. He’s a young man yet, just come to the college; will probably know more about fruit in 20 years hence. . . . Senator the one that suits my taste.

Four Good Apples.—Later, Feb., '03: Well seasoned. Curr. Black B. D., Delicious, Senator, Champion; did much better than year before. Most young trees do not bear as good fruit the first season or two, so expect still better this year. Senator I like the best; will like them the next three. Black B. D. a good bearer and a great much better tree. Champion improves, Delicious is truly delicious; Black Ben Davis (why not leave out "Davis" and say Black Ben?) colors much finer and flavor is far better than Gano or Ben Davis. Think I’ll keep a few Black Ben Davis trees, and give the balance to others. I hope Kan. when B. D. was first grown there; thought it too pumpkin like; have seen no reason to change my opinion. Not much beauty in that stripe. I want solid red or mottled red. I send 2 bx. Stayman-Winesp. 1 bx. Banana, 1 bx. B. B. D. 1 bx. Senator—with 8 other kinds, all 8 of which I obtained for, "Bismarck."—Theo. Smith.
PRIZE ORCHARD.—Sam'l T. Cole, Clyde, Ark., to Mo. Hort. Soc. Committee, Sept. 24, '02: Don't want Gano on my place; falls badly, not uniform, uneven color; often has broad streaks—Black B. D. never. Few good specimens on trees, but many fail to color up—just a good Ben Davis.

Black B. D. trees stood the 1901 drouth perfectly—old Ben D. wilted. B. B. D. best drouth-resister I ever saw—equal to Champion. Apples uniform red, a bit softer than Ben D., but finer color, and far better keeping—Red B. D. perfect. Black B. D. almost as large as Ben D., but much smoother, better colored apple, and takes on a better polish than Gano. Again, Gano gets soft before B. B. D. is ripe. B. B. D. is the best keeper I have ever grown. Three years ago I kept them in a common cellar until July 24, while other good varieties were gone. Plenty of good specimens; some were kept in cellar, etc., all rotted and were entirely gone by May 15. ... I do wish Prof. Good- man had come to my house. I could have shown him the two varieties together, and let him compare one to the other. They were ap- plying them, one in each hand; I can tell them apart in the dark. —S. I. Cole.

Ark. Full of BOGUS B. B. D. Trees.—Later, Dec. 9, 1902: Am glad the committee deferred report, rather than say B. B. D. and Gano are the same. Another year trusts to be able to show a large bearing orchard that will satisfy anyone they are entirely different apples.

I don't know about —'s nor —'s young B. B. D. trees: want 2200 from your original stock. Of course, you realize I'm growing B. B. D. true to name; you also know many nurserymen have had scions cut for them by people who only knew what they had true to name. B. B. D. is one of full of so-called B. B. D. apple trees. There is scarcely a nurseryman but will sell you all you want of them. ... Herein I send you agreements for all my B. B. D. scions. Will cut as per your instructions. —Sam'l T. Cole.

Corrupt Trees . . . Cannot Bear Good Fruit.—From J. J. Griffith, Wash- ington Co., Ark.. Oct. 25, 1902: Holsinger and Van Deman in Western Fruit Grower tell unpalatable truths for several parties here who are oppos- ing you in Black B. D. If it were possible these same parties would pay big to have the facts kept from the public. For they have been cutting Gano scions and selling them as Black Ben Davis.

The oldest TRUE Black Ben D. trees in existence, except the 9 old 20-y. trees in Bain orchard, are those we sent out at 1-yr.-old, in 1896-7. Yet 10- to 20-y. trees all over Wash. Co., have been dubbed "Black Ben Davis," the scions cut and sent broadcast. Cute persons, wise in their own conceit, even say the orchard from which we cut and grew Red Ben Davis, "must be Black B. D., or Stark Bro's wouldn't come way down here for the scions." So they go there, too, for "Black B. D." scions, with which to supply the brisk demand from far and near.

COUNTERFEITERS and PIRATES were ever mild-mannered, even when scuttling ship, etc. Buyers of Stark Trade-Mark Fruits know that a Trade-Mark has real value in law and may be assigned, sold, or transferred the same as any other real property. They know, too, that violators of State and U. S. laws, not to mention the agree- ment signed by all buyers of Stark Trade-Mark Fruits, "not to sell or dispose of any trees, scions, buds, etc."—they know well that such false-in-one-false-in-all dealers are not the men who are most likely to give their own customers conscientious and just treatment.

Better in COL0.—Harris, near Denver, Colo., Oct. 25, '02: Send you Black B. D. and Champion apples from Mr. Kountze. All trees look well, promise good crop next year. Mr. Kountze was out to see apples; highly pleased with Black B. D. and Champion. I have dealt with Mr. Kountze a few times and with Black B. D. in Colo.; it would take a smart man to make anybody here believe they are the same. Have lots of faith in Delicious; they are fine. Absolutely no blight on Delicious or Champion. ... Mont. O. is taking the day here; other cherries are good, but Mont. O. is better. —Wes. Page.
Notes.—In passing J. F. Bain's, Oct. 20, 1895, we noticed trees among his Ben Davis with fine dark red apples still hanging,—the main crop had been gathered. We were soon sampling what certainly seemed the most promising apple of entire Ben Davis type—far better than Gano. Finest, richest, deep dark red color, large size, of really good quality. Oct. 21, with 3 near-by orchardists, traced its history to the Rev. John Black farm, where original seedling came up in the '60's—long before dissemination of Gano. Had it not been for Mr. Guthrie, the variety would have been lost. That, if we mistake not, would have been a loss indeed. All speak very highly of the apple. Mr. Bain is enthusiastic. Its origin dating back to the '60's, long before introduction of Gano, makes it seem the more a pity it could not, have been sent out years ago. It would have been a great thing for Western orchardists.—As Burbank says, "We must multiply and distribute fast as possible". At first we thought the name should be David; for, dipping into the future far as human eye can see, we saw a time when the young David should slay the great Goliath—old Ben Davis. We bought the original stock, paying over $300, decided on Trade-Mark name, Black Ben Davis—both for the originator and because "Black" was truly descriptive, and with suffix Ben Davis would, in 3 words, carry more information than 3 pages might give—exhibited Black Ben Davis apples Nov., 1895, had colored plates drawn from same and lithographed, copyrighted July 13, 1896, and introduced, with following copyright description:

BLACK BEN DAVIS (Trade-Mark).—This great seedling of Ben Davis, we believe all orchardists would plant instead of Ben Davis and Gano, if they knew as much about it as we do. Great improvement on Ben Davis: More beautiful color, better quality, better keeper, sweeter bearer—four important points. Far and away ahead of Gano. decidedly larger, fully as large as Ben Davis; Gano is smaller. Longer keeper and does not scald in cold storage; both Gano and Ben Davis do scald. More solid, deeper red color; Gano often lacks color. Much better quality; Gano is no better than Ben D. In brief, Black B. D. is what Gano ought to be—but is not. We are convinced that Black B. D., Delicious and Champion are going to be 3 of the most popular market apples grown. Each one has been well tested. Black B. D. originated with Rev. John Black in N.W. Ark. In the '60's. Later, 9 trees were grafted and set in orchard where they have regularly excelled Ben Davis—bearing (as this year, 1896) when Ben Davis faded.

For 70 years part of N. W. Ark. have been an actual vast Experiment Station, people planting seeds of their best apples; hence so many new valuable sorts—many of them good, some better than good, a few superior. But in our search for apples—such as now in cultivation, we paid no attention to any sort that lacked size, color, quality, vigor, productiveness. We then traced origin—learning many valuable facts.

Briefly, among the new apples we offer are several which we believe surpass anything now in cultivation. As compared with each other, and with the Ben Davis and the line of Delicious, we will give the following order: Delicious, Black Ben Davis, Champion—and even the latter pays better than Mo. Pippin, Ben Davis, Willow Twig, etc.

The above was the first name and the first word of description ever printed of the Black Ben Davis apple. Indeed, before we saw and called attention to its value in 1895, it was absolutely unknown, save by neighbors. Yet it had been hauled 100's of miles to market as early as 1874—full 21 years before our first sight of this great export apple of the future. Had borne fine crops in the Bain orchard for many years. And other nurserymen had even been begged to graft,—all this, too, with a live Professor of Horticulture at the county-seat town! Prof. Stinson, however, did hurry out his "Preliminary Report" in Jan., 1898!

"The object in publishing this preliminary report in advance is to bring to attention ... most important new varieties. ... Another reason is that enterprising nurserymen in other states have secured stock, etc."

There really was no need for such haste on his part, for Stark Bro's during more than two years, had already been rather vigorously "bringing to attention" Black Ben D. and other "important new varieties." But what makes the Professor's unseemly rush to publish all the more regrettable, is that he palpably lacked time to consult his Warder or Downing. Otherwise, he could hardly have made the grievous mistake of trying to fasten the name of an old Indiana apple on our new Black Ben Davis,—to say nothing of those other well-known Pomological rules as to Priority of Publication, Introducer's Right to Name, etc.
CHAMPION (Trade-Mark).—Of our new apples, only this and Senator were ever exhibited before 1895,—when they were shown at the STARK FRUIT FAIR. Both have aroused interest ever since shown at World's Fair, where they took the lead among 60 worthy new sorts. 1 In the localities where they have been grown for years they lead Ben Davis, one planter saying, “Wish all my trees were Champion and Senator;” another, “Wish all my M. B. Twigs were Champion.” Excees Willow Twig in value,—in color, beauty, smoothness, keeping. For quick and sure profit, Champion equals, perhaps surpasses, Mo. Pippin—yet it is long-lived, for the old 40-yr. tree, with no care, yearly bears perfect fruit. Uniform shape, medium to large, yellow, covered with bright red—in finely penciled streaks, broader stripes and, on the sunny side, often deep solid red. Flesh yellow, juicy, good, does not become dry, even in late spring. Keeps well and long. Colors earlier than Ben Davis, but will hang much longer, tree bears younger and fuller, is strong jointed, shouldered, never splits; grand foliage.

III. Fruit EXPERIMENT Stations.—E. A. Richel in Ill. Hort. Report, 1902: Champion fruited for third time; good and young bearer, large size, red; would plant in preference to Ben Davis. 2

DELICIOUS (Trade-Mark).—“Hangs as well as Ben Davis, keeps as well, is as good a shipper (instead of decaying, bruises dry up like Ben Davis), as large, of finer color, as strong a grower, harder, bears every year. Not a man tastes it but says it is the best apple he ever saw. Once introduced there will be but little call for Jonathan. If it is not a better apple than any in your large list it will cost you nothing to try it. It has been put to the test of life and would not willingly overestimate Delicious for 40 such apples.”

“Delicious was 6 yrs old when it fruited. Was so fine a fruit I at once upturned sod around tree, and it soon began making strong, thick growths. Now 15 yrs old and is 13 inches diameter at ground. Makes strong, vigorous growth, similar to Winesap, except branches are stronger, and needs little or no pruning. Both tree and fruit are perfect models. Tree has heavy, dark green foliage, strong, finely moulded limbs, adapted to bearing great weights of fruit, and a body upright and giant like, with smooth dark bark. Does not sprout or sucker. Does not sun-blight. Has never shown any tenderness. During last 5 yrs, drouth and cold have killed three-fifths of my orchard, but Delicious stood all right. Bears annually large quantities of luscious fruit. Both beautiful and delicious, praised by all who have tasted it; has a peculiar quality that cannot be described, and a delightful, fragrant aroma. Brilliant, dark red, often minged with gold near blossom end. Splendid winter keeper, equal to Ben Davis. Delicious is greatly needed, and who ever tastes it. All declare it to be the best apple in the world, that the half has never been told.”

So wrote the venerable originator, Jesse Hiatt, of near Des Moines, Ia., when first sending us Delicious. We found them extraordinarily fine—quality surpassing even Jonathan or Grimes Golden. The next year he sent us two barrels—no pear more delicious. 3

WILL DELIGHT Unborn Millions.—Jan. 13, '03: Black B. D. and Delicious sent me are exceedingly satisfactory—both better than I expected. 4 Black Bens are almost the handsomest apples I ever saw, and Delicious are—what we have not eaten—keeping as perfectly as Black B. D. They seem to be two very grand apples. Delicious has the most delicate flesh texture I have ever seen in an apple, and it can be eaten with delight by thousands of people, who cannot eat common apples—to whom Winesap, for instance, is a prolonged misery. The most sensitive stomachs will accept Delicious with joy and thanksgiving.—Park Earle.

DELICIOUS apple is well named. I have this year, for the first time, had an opportunity to examine specimens of it, they were grown on a hillside in Iowa. It is of good size, conical, red striped and most excellent in quality.—Prof. Van Deman, in Green's Fr'Tr Grower, Feb. '03.

This Valuable Apple.—From G. B. Brackett, U. S. Pomologist, Wash., D. C., Nov. 17, 1902: By the way, I've recently rec'd specimens of the invaluable, cost of which of $10 was offered for the best flavored winter apple. Delicious, exhibited by me, easily took 1st Prize, and its flavor was declared by everyone to be far ahead of all apples. Tree is a good bearer here and is hardy, certainly one of our best. I can't bear to part with it. —I have several of them.