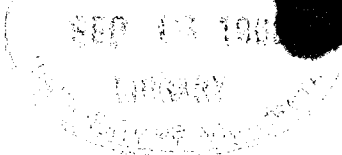


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# FRUIT GROWERS' LETTER



September 1968

## MINNESOTA GROWERS OPTIMISTIC ABOUT APPLE CROP

Although early estimates of the potential Minnesota apple crop were somewhat high (800,000 bushels), grower optimism for an above average crop continues. The heavy June drop, particularly McIntosh, was basically responsible for a reduced production estimate. It is now estimated that Minnesota will produce between 500,000 and 600,000 bushels this year.

In general, apple quality and size are good to excellent, although some hail damage is evident in certain fruit producing areas. The damage is not as extensive and severe, however, as it was in 1967.

Our weather has not been completely ideal for optimum apple coloring. Clear days with relatively cool nights are ideal for good fruit color. On the other hand, a period of warm, muggy, and rainy weather 1-3 weeks before harvest can result in poor fruit color. But it's unwise to forget that other factors, such as nutrition, moisture, and the inherent tendency of a variety to become red, also influence coloring.

Recent reports have indicated that apple buyers are looking for quality and are willing to pay good prices for it. In summary, the market is strong and showing good movement and demand.

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## PRELIMINARY RELEASE OF THE MINNESOTA 1968 APPLE VARIETY SURVEY

The Minnesota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service recently has released a preliminary tabulation of the 1968 Apple Variety Survey. This report is full of extremely useful information about Minnesota apple production. Some of the information will be relayed through this newsletter, but you can obtain a copy of the release from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, St. Paul.

The Delicious variety of apple is now the most popular commercial variety in Minnesota, both for size controlled and bearing age trees. The Haralson variety maintained its first ranked position only in standard trees. However, when all bearing and nonbearing trees were considered in one group, the Delicious variety was slightly more popular than Haralson.

There are now approximately 190,000 commercial apple trees of all ages in Minnesota. Of these, approximately 25 percent are the dwarfing type. This figure should change dramatically in a few years, because since 1960 more dwarfing types have been planted than standard trees.

Whereas the variety Beacon has been extensively used on dwarfing rootstocks, Haralson has in general been used only on standard rootstocks.

This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.  
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

The Minnesota Crop and Livestock Reporting Service expressed appreciation to the active orchardist and the Minnesota Fruit Growers Association in responding to the survey.

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U-PICK

The pick your own idea lends itself to customer harvesting of fruits and certain vegetables. The growth and profit potentialities of such an idea were discussed recently at a meeting held in Beltsville, Maryland. Consumers harvest nearly all of 17 acres of strawberries for a grower near Washington, D. C. Another grower in Maryland encourages consumer harvesting of strawberries, peaches, and vegetables. Ninety percent of Wisconsin's annual production from 2,000 acres of strawberries was reported to be harvested by consumers. Only a few growers in Minnesota have realized the benefits of a consumer picking operation. (From Penn State Horticultural Review)

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BOOKLET RECOMMENDED FOR ALL PESTICIDE USERS

All users of pesticides should have the 8-page, foldout booklet from USDA entitled Pesticides Registration--How It Protects You. The booklet answers questions about how residue tolerances are established, standards, which products are registered, tightening of safeguards, and what you can do to help the safety program. The leaflet (PA-835) is available at no cost from: Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. 20402.

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FAULTS OF CERTAIN APPLE CULTIVARS

Major faults of leading standard apple cultivars in New York State have been listed recently by Roger D. Way of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Geneva. For McIntosh, they are preharvest drop and easy bruising; for greening, they are green color and poor eating quality; for Cortland, they are too early ripening after McIntosh and priming difficulty; for Delicious, they are heavy thinning requirements, water core susceptibility, and its limitation to fresh market; for Yellow Delicious, they are russeting, thinning requirements, easy bruising, and shriveling; for Rome Beauty, they are poor eating quality and preharvest drop; for N. Spy, they are late bearing, light crops, variable fruit size, preharvest drop, and easy bruising; and for Baldwin, they are biennial bearing, winter injury susceptibility, preharvest drop, and bitter pits. (Penn State Horticultural Review)

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NEWS BRIEFS

from

Minnesota Fruit Growers Association

Wisconsin, Minnesota Summer Orchard Tour -- The summer orchard tour, held at LaCrescent, Minnesota this year, was a huge success. More than 200 persons from both Wisconsin and Minnesota attended this annual event in the scenic southeast corner of Minnesota.

The group registered at Old Hickory Orchards, where they observed the modern and highly mechanized packing and storage operation of George and Bruce Nelson. The next stop included the dwarf Beacon orchard of Vic Leidel. Vic noted that although the planting requires additional expense and care, it certainly is a profitable enterprise.

Caravans of cars then proceeded to the packing and storage operation on the Louis Lautz Orchard. Although Lautz' storage operation is small (8-10,000 bushels) when compared to Old Hickory, it is a highly desirable unit and satisfies the need of the average grower in southeast Minnesota.

Fruit Acres was the next stop on the tour. Lunch, in the form of barbecued chicken, was served. After lunch, agricultural specialists from both Wisconsin and Minnesota discussed apple production problems. The group then toured Fruit Acres with Gordon Yates acting as host.

Although both Minnesota and Wisconsin are down on the national list of apple producing states, grower enthusiasm is high, which certainly is reflected in the high quality of their apple production.

The National Apple Institute recently announced a new slate of officers for next year. Among them was Gordon Yates, Fruit Acres, LaCrescent, Minnesota, who was elected to the nine-man executive committee of the National Board of Trustees. Congratulations, Gordon. We know that the National Apple Institute will benefit from your presence.

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THE COOK'S CORNER

Your author has received requests from several female cooks and bakers, who apparently read the newsletter, for information on new and outstanding fruit recipes. Consequently, I consulted Mrs. Shirley T. Munson, assistant professor in horticultural science, and she suggested the following recipe for apple cream pie. Your comments concerning this addition to the newsletter would be appreciated.

APPLE CREAM PIE

Pastry

1½ cups sifted flour  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1/8 teaspoon salt

½ cup butter  
3 egg yolks  
1 tablespoon water



Filling , 3 1951 D01 925 981 T

2½ cups peeled and sliced apples  
 ½ cup sugar  
 ¼ cup flour

1/8 teaspoon nutmeg  
 1 cup heavy cream

To make pastry, sift flour, sugar, and salt together, and cut in the butter until the mixture is well blended. Add the egg yolks and water. Blend well and knead until smooth. Pat with fingers into a 9-inch pie pan. Flute the edges.

To make filling, toss the sliced apples with the flour and sugar. Fill a pastry-lined pan. Bake at 375° F. for 10 minutes. Add the cream. Bake 30-35 minutes longer until the pastry is golden brown and the apples are tender. Do not freeze.

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Edited by Leonard B. Hertz, Extension Horticulturist  
 Agricultural Extension Service  
 University of Minnesota, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

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Trade names are sometimes used in this publication to clearly describe products. The use of a trade name does not imply endorsement by the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, nor does omission of other trade names imply nonapproval.

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