

The Hazen Apple

Neal S. Holland



The Science and Education Administration, Agricultural Research (SEA-AR), United States Department of Agriculture and the Department of Horticulture, North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station, North Dakota State University announce the naming and release of a new apple variety, Hazen. This was tested as selection Mandan 41-27.

Hazen apple resulted from a cross of the Duchess and Starking Delicious varieties. The cross and initial selection and evaluations were made under the fruit breeding program at the Great Plains Field Station, Mandan, North Dakota, by Mr. W. P. Baird and Mr. William A. Oitto. Upon the closing of the fruit breeding program at the Great Plains Field Station in 1966, continued evaluation was done by the Department of Horticulture, North Dakota State University.

The tree of the Hazen apple is a natural semi-dwarf. By the age of 15 years it should grow only to about 7 to 10 feet in height and about 15 feet in spread. The tree is precocious and frequently starts fruiting at the age of 3 to 4 years. The tree is hardy for North Dakota conditions and has been quite free of fireblight. Its rating for fireblight resistance would be similar to the Haralson apple. It is an annual cropping variety.

The fruit of the Hazen happle is large, up to three inches in diameter and run about three apples per pound. The shape is round to round-oblate. The basin at the blossom end is quite broad and shows a tendency toward the five points typical of the Starking Delicious parent. The color is an attractive dark red with about 80 percent of the surface fully colored. The flesh is greenish-yellow in color, medium firm, juicy, and slightly coarse. The flavor is mild, subacid, and pleasant for eating. It rates good as a dessert apple and also for culinary purposes. The fruit ripens in late August at Fargo.

Hazen should be considered as a replacement for Beacon apple under North Dakota conditions.

Trees of the Hazen apple will be available in limited supply in the nursery trade for the spring of 1980. No trees will be available from the Department of Horticulture, North Dakota State University.

Hazen apple performed well in the trial sites at the Main Station, Fargo, Carrington Irrigation Station and Williston Experiment Station as well as South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota and Canada Agriculture Research Station, Morden, Manitoba.

The name "Hazen" was selected for this new cultivar to commemorate two aspects of its origin. The town Hazen is near Mandan where the seedling originated. The late Dean Arlon G. Hazen was Dean of the College of Agriculture and Director of the North Dakota Experiment Station while this cultivar was under test as a selection.

Holland is professor, Department of Horticulture.