

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST



* * SEPTEMBER * *

BLENHEIM.

(BLENHEIM ORANGE, BLENHEIM PIPPIN, WOODSTOCK.)

An apple that is constantly gaining in favor with both grower and consumers, because of its size, its beauty, its evenness of form and general excellence for cooking purposes and dessert purposes. It is grown in the Counties of Prince Edward, Victoria, Lincoln, and elsewhere, and is highly valued as a commercial apple. It certainly deserves to be more generally planted.

ORIGIN: a garden in Woodstock, England, near the residence of the Duke of Marlborough, shown at a meeting of the London Horticultural Society in 1819 and introduced into France about 1840.

TREE: very vigorous in habit, and consequently a scant bearer young, but a regular and abundant bearer as it grows older; dwarfed on the Paradise stock the tree becomes an early bearer.

FRUIT: large to very large on favorable soil, averaging three inches high by three and a half broad; form roundish oblate, slightly smaller at the apex than at the base, very regular; color, yellowish, splashed with dull red on sunny side, and streaked with deep red dots small and distinct; stock short, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch long, stout in a large russetted cavity; calyx, large and very open, with short segments placed in a large, green cavity.

FLESH: creamy white, fine, crisp, moderately juicy. Flavor, sweet, spicy, slightly acid.

SEASON: November to February.

QUALITY: dessert, good; cooking very good.

VALUE: home and foreign markets first class.

ADAPTATION: Ontario, south of latitude 44 $\frac{1}{2}$.

One of the mysteries about apple growing in Ontario is the immense number of unprofitable varieties grown in what are supposed to be the best orchards, not to speak of the nameless seedling trees we have in the

older orchards: such varieties, for example, as Golden Sweet, Rambo, Fall Pippin, Blue Pearmain, Keswick Codlin, Hawley, Maiden's Blush, St. Lawrence, Colvert, Vandevere, Tallman Sweet, English Russet and many other varieties, many of which have ranked high in past days, but now owing to scab or blight, unproductiveness or early decay, are inferior to other varieties that are available. As we have often said in these columns, we must make a radical change and that right soon, if we would have such apples as will do Ontario credit in the British markets.

The Blenheim Orange is one of the few apples of its season that is worthy of a place in our commercial orchards for foreign shipments. Ever since its origin in England, about a century ago, it has steadily advanced in favor, and is now highly valued in England, France, and America, supplanting in Canada the once famous Ribston, of the same season.

This excellent apple was grown from the seed by a baker named Kempster at Woodstock, near Blenheim, the seat of the Duke of Marlborough. At first it was called Wood-