

# The Canadian Horticulturist

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## Fruits Originated in Canada\*

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UP to the present time no extensive list of fruits which have originated in Canada has been published, but it is now thought desirable, owing to the rapidly developing importance of the Canadian fruit industry, that such a list should be at least begun. It is with much pleasure, therefore, that I present before the American Pomological Society a preliminary paper, believing that the best place to introduce such a subject is before this society, which has done so much to systematize nomenclature and to bring new fruits into notice.

Fruits have been cultivated in Canada almost or quite as long as they have been in the United States. Early in the history of the country, apple trees were successfully planted by the French in Nova Scotia, and by 1663, according to history, trees were growing on the banks of the Dauphin, the L'Equille, and L'Orignal rivers, and in the vicinity of Minas Basin and the rivers Canard and Gaspereaux. According to Pierre Boucher, who wrote in 1663, trees were growing in the vicinity of Montreal, for he states: "Not many trees have been introduced from France, except some apple trees that bear very fine fruit in large quantity, but there are not many of these trees yet." In Ontario and the other provinces of the Dominion, the cultivation of fruits was begun later. For at least 250 years, then, fruits have been cultivated in Canada, although little progress was made while the country was thinly settled and the permanence of the settlements uncertain. There is no doubt, however, but that from the very earliest of the introductions have sprung some varieties distinctly Canadian. While many of the fruit trees introduced from France and England to Nova Scotia were suited to the conditions there, and have been the parents of many seedlings showing evidence of the blood of old French and English sorts, it was

quite otherwise in the case of the province of Quebec, where the cold winters must have destroyed most of the trees, but in the Fameuse apple, which Canadians claim to be the best apple of its season, there is an instance of a variety, or a Canadian seedling, which we prefer to think, that has survived, and in the seedlings of Fameuse there is a group of varieties bearing a close re-

part of man. There is no doubt but that considerable seed was planted by the early settlers, but in those stormy times the young trees must have received little care. Later, there was less incentive to originate trees from seed, as good varieties could be procured from the New England states, hence most of the Canadian fruits of which we now have a record have originated by chance from seed fallen by the wayside.

It is not my purpose to present at this time a long list of varieties which, for the most part, would be uninteresting, and which can be studied if desired when this paper appears in the Annual Report, but to say something more about those Canadian varieties which have now more than a local reputation.

### APPLES ORIGINATED IN CANADA

The apple, being the most important Canadian fruit, has naturally given more desirable sorts than any other kind of fruit. Perhaps the most noteworthy of all Canadian apples is the Fameuse. While some writers have tried to show that this apple is of French origin, and was merely introduced from France by the early Canadian settlers, there is no good evidence to support any such contention, and while there is no positive proof that it is Canadian, the evidence is very strong that it was originated somewhere along the St. Lawrence river near Montreal or Quebec early in the seventeenth century. The Fameuse and some of its seedlings stand out prominently among the high-class dessert apples of their season, and in addition to their beauty and quality they are very profitable, and if an unprejudiced vote were taken by all fruit growers who are well acquainted with apples, on what were the two best dessert varieties of their season, which is November to January in Canada, the vote would be almost unanimous in favor of the Fameuse and the McIntosh, the latter a Canadian seedling of the former.

### Assists Societies

The Woodstock Horticultural Society has been taking THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST for 12 or 13 years. The society was organized about 1895, at which time THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST was given as a special premium. Ever since that date, the members of the horticultural society have looked forward to receiving their copy of THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST. We know that it has proved to our advantage to give the publication as a premium to our members, and I would advise all other societies to do the same. Not only will it assist in increasing the membership, but THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST is of such a nature as to greatly assist the horticultural interests of the society.—M. Dawes, Secretary-Treasurer, Woodstock Horticultural Society, Woodstock, Ont.

semblance to the parent which are proving of great value. In Ontario, where the cultivation of fruits was begun somewhat later than in the provinces of Nova Scotia and Quebec, the parentage of most of the seedlings may be traced to American varieties which were already quite numerous when orchards were first planted in Ontario.

Up to within a few years ago most of the fruits of merit which had originated in Canada were chance seedlings, or seedlings which had originated with little or no effort on the

\*A portion of a paper read before the American Pomological Society, at the Jamestown Exhibition.