

Delicious Apples and Their History

Searching for a more perfect apple, Stark Nurseries of Louisiana, Missouri, sponsored an Apple Show and Contest in 1892. Growers brought their best fruit to the show. In the testing process, Clarence Stark bit into a red, rather elongated apple with five small bumps on the blossom end, and exclaimed, “Delicious! Who sent them?” However, the grower could not be found. The next year another contest was sponsored, in the hopes of again finding the best apple. This time the apple grower was identified. The tree bearing the extra-ordinary red apple came from the farm of Jesse Hiatt of Winterset, Iowa. Stark purchased its sole rights, named the apple “Stark Delicious,” and secured a registered trade mark. It has become the world’s most popular and profitable apple.

From research by Lee Jackson for her book **Apples, Apples Everywhere—Favorite Recipes From America's Orchards** (Images Unlimited Publishing, P.O. Box 305, Maryville, MO 64468) available at your local bookstore for \$14.95 or online at www.imagesunlimitedpub.com

###