Blondee® (USPP 19,007) ‘Delight at First Bite’

Wanda Heuser Gale
International Plant Management

Wanda Heuser Gale of International Plant Management, Lawrence, MI, looks at new apple varieties and mutations all the time. Sent to us in boxes and bags, the discoverers are hoping they’ve found “the next new Honeycrisp™”. Blondee® arrived in one of those boxes and really caught our eye. The original tree was found nearly ten years ago at McLaughlin Orchards in Portsmouth, Ohio. There it sat high on a steep ridge overlooking the Ohio River and sticking out like a diamond in the rough; a bright, clear, yellow apple in a sea of red and green.

The exciting things about Blondee® are what we always look for in a new apple variety. She possesses them all: the flavor is sweet and juicy with a zing; crisp and crunchy texture, long lasting firmness, and a beautiful clear yellow color with smooth skin and very few lenticels. A bin of Blondee® has a yellow, translucent glow.

Blondee® handles well and has an unbelievable storage life. We’ve held it in our small walk-in cooler for up to ten months and it remains firm and crunchy. The apple picks at 18 to 20 pounds and holds that pressure for months, keeping longer and in better shape than any other apple we have seen.

Its early ripening time at the beginning of Gala season makes Blondee® an excellent choice for u-pick and retail operations. She has a very long ripening period, holding two to three weeks on the tree and ripening in a season when a good yellow apple is not available. A grower at one of our favorite U-pick operations in Michigan tells us that after Honeycrisp, Blondee® is the apple customers ask for more than any other variety. Both children and adults love them and have begun to ask for them.

The Blondee® tree looks and acts much like a Gala tree. It responds well to thinning and short pruning and the fruit will size better if those steps are taken. Blondee® is an annual bearer with good blossom set and hardiness. The tree has a medium susceptibility to fireblight.

We see great things for Blondee® – she’s making a name for herself. This variety has everything that a world class apple needs; flavor, quality, holding ability, a beautiful appearance and a great name. Blondee®, delight at first bite.

Blondee®

DELIGHT AT FIRST BITE

USPP 19,007

“ Blondee® may be the best apple we have ever introduced”

~Wally Heuser, International Plant Management, Inc.

- Exciting, beautiful, early ripening, yellow apple
- Fruit is smooth, round, very firm, and hangs well
- Ripens early, with the first Gala
- Delightful, distinctive, sweet/tart flavor with crunch!
- U-pick customers love it

An IPM Variety.

Blondee®'s amazing holding and storage capabilities give it a 6 month market potential with today's technology.

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