Suggested New Apple Variety: Crimson® Gold (Svatava Cv.)

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At Sunhigh Orchards in Randolph NJ last week, owner Phil Green was excited to show me his crop of Crimson® Gold apples grown on a 5-year-old tall spindle trellis. I ate one and my taste buds exploded with flavor. It is a very hard crunchy apple with lots of acid that forms a complex flavor balanced with high sugar. It fills a nice slot for PYO operation coming in before Golden Delicious. Trees had filled their space on M.9 NAKBT337 and were highly productive.

Crimson® Gold (Svatava Cv.) is available from Adams County Nursery. Their catalog lists Crimson Gold as "a new scab-resistant cultivar just ahead of Golden Delicious. The fruit colors nicely with a near full red-orange blush on a yellow background, and the flesh is white, firm and juicy. Apples are medium in size with a sweet-tart flavor. Fruit has storage life of up to eight months. The trees have medium vigor and are very productive, so they should be thinned accordingly." Trees at Sunhigh Orchard had fairly strong vigor on M.9 NAKBT337.

Figure 1. Crimson® Gold (Svatava Cv.) grown at UMass Cold Spring Orchards Photo Credit, Jon Clements.

In Massachusetts, Crimson Gold has been evaluated in two locations beginning in 2011 (per the Apple Testers database, appletesters.net). Little, if any pre-harvest drop was noted when harvested from September 13 to October 30. October 30 was way too late to harvest it. Although largely a yellow apple, it has a prominent bright and very attractive red-orange blush that covers from 35 to 70% of the apple surface. It is a medium-large apple when adequately thinned, fruit diameter ranging from three to three and one-half inches. Flesh firmness centers around 20 pounds (quite firm). Brix has been as high as 16 but is more often about 14 when picked before becoming over-mature. Starch-index readings are variable but should be in the 4-7 range about October 1, the approximate recommended harvest date, just before Golden Delicious. Fruit flavor is best described as complex with both high sugar and acidity. It is admittedly not for everybody, but for those who appreciate a complex flavor. Fruit flesh is green-white, medium texture, crisp-melting, and sweet-tart. Skin is a bit chewy. Tree

Figure 2. Crimson® Gold (Svatava Cv.) grown at Sunhigh Orchards, Randolph, NJ. Photo Credit: Wes Autio.

habit has been described as medium vigor with an upright-spreading growth habit. It can be biennial if not adequately thinned. Otherwise it is an easily managed tree. It might make a good cider apple, but is also recommended for fresh eating. Although Crimson Gold is scab-resistant, it is recommended a season-long fungicide (and insecticide) program be in place for optimum tree health and fruit quality. See the UMass maturity report: http://ag.umass.edu/fruit/2019-apple-maturity-report.

Origin of Crimson® Gold (Svatava Cv.)?

Crimson® Gold is a Czech Republic apple variety tested as Svatava that is exclusive to ANIFIC which is an Australian Company which focus's on in Intellectual Property Management & Commercialization: https://www.anfic.com.au/ and https://www.anfic.com.au/portfolio-view/svatava-2/. Adams County Nursery https://www.acnursery.com/ appears to be the only US nursery propagating it.

ANIFIC has the following descriptors for Crimson® Gold (Svatava Cv.).

FRUIT: medium sized with fine texture, juicy, aromatic and good acid balance. Average weight 148g.
SKIN: red striped bi-coloured apple with yellow background. Medium in thickness.
FLESH: cream, slightly crisp & slightly sweet. 13° Brix.
PRESSURE: 8kg (17.6 pounds)
MATURITY: ripens just before Golden Delicious.
COMMENTS: requires thinning similar to Golden Delicious.
STORAGE LIFE: 7-8 months.