

Starapi (Sternapi, Api-etoilé)

The cultivar "Sternapi" is probably the most primitive of the cultivated apple varieties. With its five clear edges it represents an interesting botanical prototype. According to the pomologue Olivier de Serres (1539 -1619) it originates from Roman times.

The oldest document mentioning "Sternapi" was written by Jean Bauhin (1541-1613), the first real pomologue. He called this apple variety „Pomum Pentagonum“ (five-star apple). Moreover, two drawings of „Sternapi“ were made by him.



Prof. Roger Corbaz from Prangins VD tells the story of „Sternapi's“ discovery: „It was in February 1981 that a woman from Corsier/Geneva called me and said she knew a big tree, full of apples but without leaves,



and she called those apples „Pomme Fleur“ (flower apples). I went there and identified those flower apples as „Api étoilé“. I took some scions with me, grew some trees and planted them in the Arboretum of Aubonne and in the orchard of Höri ZH. Later on, I found some single old trees of this variety also in the Haute Savoie (F). Today, there are no old trees of

this variety known any more in Switzerland. For 20 years there is one tree in Höri ZH, thanks to FRUCTUS.

The tree of the variety „Sternapi“ is of medium-strong growth and somewhat susceptible to alternance and scab. The fruits are tree-ripe by the end of October and can be stored until April. The eating quality is rather poor, but the fruit shape is very attractive.

