

Edwin Gould



Edwin Gould studied Entomology at West Virginia University. In 1928, he began his career with West Virginia University at the Kearneysville Farm. His task, in those days before modern insecticides, was to develop techniques of combatting the many insects, such as the Codling Moth, that were continually plaguing the tree fruit industry. He was partially successful in that he developed improved methods of applying the older materials and this, along with better timing of the spray applications, insured that a higher proportion of the fruit could be successfully harvested.

In 1945, Mr. Gould was one of the first entomologists to use the new “miracle” insecticide DDT, which in a very short time revolutionized the tree fruit industry. Soon the name “Gould” was being acclaimed throughout all the tree fruit growing areas of the nation. This success led to his appointment

as Superintendent of the Kearneysville Experimental Farm, a position he cherished until retirement. He also operated a personal farm in the same general area.

Mr. Gould spent 35 years at the Experimental Farm; and in the words of Mr. Ned Miller, himself a famous local orchardist, “I feel completely safe in saying that Ed has influenced the lives and fortunes of more tree-fruit growers in West Virginia than any other man and that many of us owe a large measure of our success to his help and counsel. He has been a friend and advisor to fruit growers throughout the United States for many, many years and has brought a great credit and prestige to the Kearneyville Station and to West Virginia.”

Mr. Gould became an authority on new red strains of the Delicious apple after they emerged in the Western United States. He traveled overseas to study dwarfing rootstocks, and was one of the first to establish high density plantings. His writings on the Golden Delicious apple are an accepted reference source for apple growers.

From the “apple capitol of the world”, Dr. R. Paul Larsen, Superintendent and Horticulturist, Tree Fruit Research Center, Washington State University, Wenatchee, Washington writes “... Ed Gould is an international institution in the fruit world. Throughout his life, he has not only provided exceptional service in research and educational to the apple growers of West Virginia, but his many excellent ideas and observations were of tremendous value to the fruit industry across the land and beyond.”

Mr. Gould belonged to several State Horticulture Societies and the Entomological Society of America.