



## Unexpected russeting

Posted by [James Austin](#)

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[James Austin](#)

[Unexpected russeting](#)

August 22, 2016 10:15PM

Registered: 8 years ago

Posts: 11

My nephew asked me what he had going on with his apples. It is an old tree and a very sentimental heirloom from his maternal side. They simply refer to it as the 'King' tree. I looked in my apple books and at extension service postings online without seeing a real match. Could you help me help him? There appears to be almost a russeting over half the apple and it is not a russet variety.

[apples%20%20004.jpg](#)

[apples%20%20005.jpg](#)

Spliced Wire Farm & Apiaries

Zone 4b NE Corner of McKean County, PA

Edited 1 time(s). Last edit at 08/23/2016 02:51AM by Michael Phillips.

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[Paul Weir](#)

[Re: Unexpected russeting](#)

August 24, 2016 07:58PM

Registered: 11 years ago

Posts: 187

Hi James,

Thanks for the photos, that is always helpful in a case like this.

Do they spray this tree with anything, annually, or perhaps just this year? Late Copper (after fruit set) sprays are known to increase the likelihood of russetting, for example, and that would often then manifest on the sunny side (the exposed side of the apple), which could account for the russeting only being on one side, as your photos show.

Other sprays, besides copper, may do the same . . .

Let us know what you find out and can add to help solve the mystery

[Gopher Hill Apples](#)

Zone 8 in California

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[James Austin](#)

[Re: Unexpected russeting](#)

August 25, 2016 10:02AM

No sprays have been used.

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[Todd Parlo](#)

[Re: Unexpected russeting](#)

February 01, 2017 11:30PM

Registered: 8 years ago

Posts: 11

Registered: 10 years ago

Posts: 301

What is weird about russetting is that it can be caused by mildew, and that spray remedies for mildew can cause it. It may be that, since no sprays were made, those areas with less circulation have some wet induced russet. However, if there really is some mystery associated with the variety, how do we know it does not have russet as a genetic characteristic? With these days of excitement over rough skinned heirlooms, you might try to get that russet on the other half too. There is something very attractive to a russet netting on a big red haralson, despite it being a so called blemish.

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Zone 3 in Vermont

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