

A Letter to the Secretary

Oct. 25, 1970

Dear friends:

This is my first letter to the Society since purchasing a life membership several years ago.

I have read your appeals to enlist new members. This is difficult to do, for most fruit growers appear to be interested in producing their own crops for marketing. As for myself, I am a lumber mill worker living on a 33 acre farm at the border of the Douglas Fir forest region (of Oregon). I am interested in all sorts of fruit, but more from the practical standpoint. In other words, if a certain species and variety is adapted to the area, and it has worthwhile traits of type and vigor, we need not put forth a lot of effort to find another.

As for the researcher and plant breeder, may he fulfill his desire to find a new and better variety to this heart's content.

Grapes, apples, pears, plums, currants and gooseberries are my chief interest. The last two fruits are not found here. There is a native flowering currant with beautiful pink flowers and a mediocre fruit. Whether anything could result from hybridizing it with cultivated species would be an interesting study.

Blackberries, the native Oregon Evergreen and the introduced Himalaya are prevalent here; the latter has become a pest along watercourses, rights-of-way, vacant lots, etc.

Peaches are reserved for the professional. Apricots are not planted here, I suppose because of early blossoming. The year 1969 gave a tremendous yield of apples, prunes and peaches. This year, the yield was way down; practically no pears, and not many apples. An unusually cold period came in early September, the temperature falling to 26°F, which caused grapes and prunes not to ripen properly.

Best wishes for a continuing interest in all kinds of fruits, berries and nuts, for the good of mankind as well as the satisfaction of growing and partaking.

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Sungold Apple in Connecticut

We have fruited the Sungold apple for five or six years, and have gotten good size, uniformity, heavy annual cropping, and no russetting. Our retail customers like it better than Golden Delicious, obviously because of appearance. They don't mention a flavor difference.

Our Goldens always russet badly. We've tried all kinds of spray mixtures to get away from the russetting; but none have helped.—*Bob Josephy, Blue Jay Orchards, Bethel, Conn. 06801.*

A. P. S. Summer Meeting, 1971

The summer meeting of A. P. S. with Amer. Soc. Hort. Science in Kansas was well attended (30). Some of the highlights are as follows: Need for non-technical articles in F.V.H.D. for amateurs was recognized. Charge for publishing Journal series articles in F.V.H.D. should be considered. Special sessions on fruit breeding and new varieties should be considered for both summer and regular annual meeting. There is strong feeling that "Horticultural Digest" portion should be dropped from title of our publication.