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## Golden Anniversary of Fruit Trials in England

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The National Fruit Trials at Faversham, Kent, England is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in October of this year. In 1922, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Horticultural Society took the first steps to establish the trials, believed to be the first in the world, at the Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens at Wisley. In 1952, the trials were moved to the Brogdale Farm just south of Faversham at a more favorable climate location. The first director was A. N. Ramer, who was succeeded in 1936 by J. M. S. Potter. Later this year P. H. Harding will become the director.

Throughout its 50 years, such names as Sir Daniel Hall, Sir Thomas Neame, Sir Ronald Hatton, Dr. F. R. Tubbs, M. B. Crane, Spencer Mount, Paget

Norbury and many others have been closely associated with the National Fruit Trials.

Presently in the collection are 1900 apples, 250 cherries, 470 pears, 400 plums, 8 quince, 30 blackberries, 200 currants, 3 elderberries, 220 gooseberries, 40 hazelnuts, and 30 vines. Under trial are 177 apples 62 cherries, 20 pears, 30 plums, 22 black currants, 12 raspberries and 24 strawberries. Although hundreds of varieties have been evaluated, only about 3% have been established commercially.

The sources of plant material have included amateurs, nurserymen and plant-breeders from all over the globe. The National Fruit Trials is unique and have benefited the entire fruit industry.

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