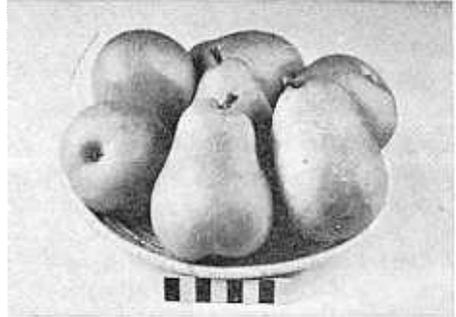# 'General LeClerc'—A New French Pear Variety

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This variety was introduced by the Fruit Research Station of Angers, France (Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique) from the Nurseries NOMBLOT. It comes probably from an open pollination of 'Doyenne du Comice' (some years before 1950).

It was tested during ten years and judged to be worthy of further tests in the orchards.

Trees of 'General LeClerc' are vigorous, with originally upright and then spreading branches. The compatibility with quince rootstocks is good. Full bloom, on the average, is one day later than 'Bartlett' (Williams). 'Passe Crassane', ' Grand Champion' and 'Conference' are suitable pollinators and, in a less extent, 'Doyenne du Comice' and 'Bartlett'. In natural con-

Fruit of 'General LeClerc'

ditions there are many seedless and well-shaped fruits.

The trees come into fruiting early and bear fairly regular and heavy crops. In one trial the mean production on four-year-old trees was 11.5 kg/tree against 2 kg/tree for 'Bartlett' of the same age.

In two other trials the cumulated production at the end of the eighth year was equal or superior to 'Conference'.

Fruits of 'General LeClerc' are picked at Angers, France, in the middle of September, a few days before 'Comice'. It is an above medium and short pyriform pear. The skin is thick, fairly tough, deep yellow almost overlaid with russet. The stem is short and thick. The flesh is fine, melting and juicy in texture, sweet to subacid; the flavor is rich, vinous and outstanding in quality.

The fruit can be ripened to good condition soon after picking and it keeps at 0°C until February.

The experimental clone was carrying vein yellow virus. Heat treatment has been used to produce healthy material. Budwood free of all known viruses will be available about 1975 for French nurseries and, for experimental purposes only, for foreign fruit research stations.

Four-year-old tree of 'General LeClerc'

[1]Fruit Research Station, Angers, France.