



## Report of The Fruit Garden Committee

Wm. F. Pickett, Chairman

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The Fruit Gardens Committee was appointed by President Stanley Johnston during the summer of 1947 and after rather extensive correspondence between the various members, a meeting of the Committee was held during the American Pomological Society's centennial celebration in St. Louis last February. Mr. J. C. McDaniel of Nashville, Tennessee, Mr. R. G. Anderson of Kansas City, Missouri and the Chairman were present. Mr. Richard M. Fagley of New York and Mr. Cecil Clark of Wapato, Washington were unable to attend the meetings.

### A Message From L. H. Bailey

Dr. L. H. Bailey wrote a letter to President Johnston expressing his regret at not being able to attend the meetings. Part of his letter is of particular interest to our Committee. Dr. Bailey wrote "The amateur spirit was its dominating factor in its first half century, whereby men grew fruits because

of the intrinsic merits of them. Now the commercial phase mostly controls our pomology in the public mind, yet the amateur spirit, the love of good fruits, still actively persists and should be further stimulated. The constructive work of the continuing society should lie beyond advertising and propaganda. Its energies may be devoted to the excellence of the fruits of the earth and to the improvement of them whether for the joy of those who prize them or for the market. It may exert a stimulating and dynamic influence in appreciation of the inherent satisfaction of living."

### All-purpose Spray

The amateur grower is interested in high quality varieties. He is also interested in dependable producers. One of the hazards which the amateur grower faces is that of pest control. Perhaps the All-Purpose spray which has been developed under the direction of Professor C. L. Burkholder of Purdue University and the late Frank Beach of Ohio State University will prove to be

of much value to the amateur grower. This spray has been compounded so that it will give reasonably good control of the important diseases and insects of many kinds of plants ranging from fruit trees to ornamentals. The material may be applied either in liquid or dry form. Professor Burkholder reports the first one or two years' results with this mixture have been satisfactory.

When President Johnston appointed our Committees he offered two suggestions. In the first place this Committee could sponsor fruit growing as a restful hobby for busy people and second, material of value to the plant breeder might be located. In line with the first suggestion, Mr. Fagley published in the last "Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest" a list of recommended fruit varieties for the northeastern region.

#### A Clearing House for Varieties

Our Committee hopes to be of service as a clearing house regarding lists of high-quality varieties of fruit, both old and new. The sources of scion wood is often a problem, especially when the amateur is interested in growing some of the older varieties of fruits of high quality. At the St. Louis meetings someone asked where Domini, Benoni and Rambo varieties could be located. This question was published by Mr. William H. Collins, Secretary of the Iowa State Horticultural Society in his newsletter to the growers of the state and we have been informed by Mr. H. A. Faeth of West Point, Iowa that he has the variety, Domini, in his orchard and

Mr. Chas. W. Hamilton, Route 3, Bedford, Iowa reports that he has Benoni and Rambo varieties in his orchard. This is an interesting beginning and we hope to assist other persons in finding some of the old varieties. Another amateur asked where he could find cions of Jennet (Ralls) and Smith Cider apple varieties. We do not have this information and if any of the readers do, their reply to this request will be appreciated.

Several nurseries have indicated that they would be willing to propagate some of the older varieties of high-quality fruits if the amateurs of the country could use our Committee as a clearing house and group their orders so that the nurseries could be assured of selling at least a reasonable number of these trees.

Mr. McDaniel reports that a physician in Tennessee is successful in grafting Asiatic chestnuts and that another amateur in his state reports observations on dwarfing and semi dwarfing apple rootstocks. Persons interested in the details of this probably could secure that information from Mr. J. C. McDaniel, Tennessee Dept. of Agriculture, Nashville 3, Tennessee. He reports having grown the Autumn Red raspberry variety budded on Paul Scarlet roses. The type of program for the amateur which is being sponsored by Mr. McDaniel in Tennessee is of interest. He is publicizing *Eleagnus multiflora* (Cherry *Eleagnus*) and *Eleagnus umbellata* (Autumn *Eleagnus*) as dual purpose species. Mr. McDaniel also

encourages persons to plant dual purpose species of hawthornes and crab apples. There are many other species of plants which are of value both for ornamental purposes and for fruit pro-

duction.

Members of the Committee will be pleased to receive suggestions from interested amateurs regarding their observations and other items of interest.



## HOME FRUIT GROWING IN CALIFORNIA

By W. L. Howard,  
revised by R. M. Brooks.

Calif. Extension Circ. 117, 84 pages 1947

This well illustrated circular contains a wealth of material for the suburban gardener. The first part of this publication deals with factors such as climate, site, soil, selection and planting of trees, cultural practices, fertilization, pruning, and the control of insects and diseases. This section lays the foundation for a discussion of the various fruit crops which is presented in the latter part of the circular.

### Training and Pruning Fruit Trees

Considerable attention is given to the training of fruit trees by the espalier and cordon systems. Such methods are of special interest to the backyard gardener who has a limited amount of space. Trees trained by these systems are attractive and may serve as a special feature in the garden. American gardeners have been extremely slow in the use of these unique and interesting fruit tree forms.

### Suitable Fruits and Nuts of California

In this section the author states: "The discussions which follow include most, but not all, of the fruits and nuts that can be successfully grown in California. Several that are obscure or extra tender are intentionally omitted because they would probably be unsatisfactory for most home fruit growers. Only a limited number of the most reliable varieties of the different fruits and nuts is discussed. Lists of varieties adapted to various districts are summarized on the inside of the cover page, and are described in detail in the various discussions that follow."

A total of thirty-eight different fruits are covered in the last part of this circular. In each case the reader is instructed as to the soil requirements, cultural operation and fertilization, training and pruning, insect and disease control, and varieties.

The information contained in this circular is for the most part not applicable to eastern and midwestern conditions.

—W.P.J.