

were provided. Trees set prior to 1967 have developed stronger root systems and most of the support has been removed. The 6 trees that died were broken at the graft union, usually in periods of high winds.

Trees of 'Golden Delicious,' 'Rome,' 'Tydemans Red,' 'Melrose,' 'Mutsu,' and 'Lodi' were limited in size as expected. Trees of the other cultivars were upright and more vigorous than expected but could easily be held to desired size by pruning. Fruit color

has been desirable, probably due to openness of the trees. However, fruit of 'Golden Delicious' has been small and very russeted. This may possibly be due to pesticide injury in the more open type tree. Yields of all trees on M.7 have appeared favorable. However, tree number is insufficient for conclusive yield data.

Trees of 'Rome,' 'Melrose,' 'Mutsu,' 'Cortland,' 'Summerred,' and 'Lodi' on M.7 have performed well. Other cultivars have been less favorable.

Book Review

Southmeadow Fruit Gardens—Choice and Unusual Varieties for the Connoisseur and Home Gardener (an illustrated catalog). 1976. By R. A. Nitschke, 2363 Tilbury Place, Birmingham, Michigan 48009. 108 pages. \$5.00.

This is not your run-of-the-mill nursery catalog. Nor is Robert Nitschke a typical nurseryman. A lawyer by profession, like Pinckney Wilder, one of the cofounders of the American Pomological Society, he is a pomologist and nurseryman largely by avocation. He is a devoted collector of fruit varieties and pomological literature. Since the early 1950's, he has searched for and collected, mainly for his personal satisfaction, fruit varieties of outstanding dessert quality, and of unusual characteristics and beauty from this continent and abroad. Whenever possible he has tested them by growing them himself.

As the word about his collection got around, Nitschke received more and more inquiries for scionwood and possible sources of trees of rare varieties. This eventually led him to establish Southmeadow Gardens as a nursery in 1961, with the help of Lorne Dowd, of Wabash, Indiana.

The plants offered for sale in the catalog are now propagated and shipped by T. C. J. Grootendorst, of Lakeside, Michigan, a graduate of the Horticultural College at Boskoop, Netherlands.

The 1976 catalog, Nitschke's second illustrated catalog, contains numerous descriptions of apple, pear, peach, plum, cherry, quince, grape, and gooseberry varieties, many of them unavailable from other sources. It includes many beautiful black-and-white prints of fruits reproduced from old classic, pomological books, as well as photographs taken by the author. His descriptions are often quite detailed, yet presented in a most interesting and intimate style, as if telling about dear friends. They are usually his own observations, as well as those of noted pomologists, both past and present. The origin of each variety is noted, to the extent that the author could determine, which gives the catalog a uniquely historical flavor.

If you enjoy old, rare fruit varieties, and those of high dessert quality; if you enjoy pomological history, and beautiful old prints of fruits, treat yourself to a copy of the Southmeadow Fruit Gardens illustrated catalog.

—G. M. Kessler