

maturity. Starkrimson has high sugar in Modesto, California, on April 20 where skin color was a blushed red. Eighteen days later sugar was very high when skin color was deep red. The skin texture is moderately tender. The red flesh is firm with a light red to red juice.

The flavor is sweet and slightly sub-acid at full maturity.

### TREE CHARACTERISTICS

Starkrimson blooms with the Bing variety in Modesto. It sets well with its own pollen and is considered self-fruitful. The chilling requirement is about 1,000 hours. The tree is compact and spreading. It is vigorous but at maturity appears to be about  $\frac{1}{2}$  the size of a standard Bing or Stella tree. Considering it is a  $\frac{1}{2}$  size tree

dwarf, Starkrimson would fit the classification of a natural dwarf tree. Starkrimson is precocious and heavy bearing. Heavy cropping in dry years may influence its fruit size.

Starkrimson in the nursery is compatible on Mahaleb and Mazzard seedlings. It is also compatible on Mahaleb in test orchard plantings.

Starkrimson cherry shows no unusual susceptibilities to disease and insects.

Exclusive rights for propagation, sales, and distribution is licensed in the United States, Canada, and Mexico to Stark Bro's Nurseries and Orchards Co. A United States Plant Patent has been filed.

Trees will be available for sales to both home gardeners and commercial growers in the spring of 1980.

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## Zaiger Receives Research Award

BETTY WYNNE

Pride and enthusiasm struck a high level when C. Floyd Zaiger received the California Association of Nurserymen's Research Award, September 25, 1979, at the 69th Annual California Association of Nurserymen's Convention held at the Newporter Inn at Newport Beach.

In accepting the bronze plaque, Zaiger was modest about his work, and gave praise to his family for their patience and devotion to duty. Since 1956 when he quit his job as an agricultural instructor at Modesto High School, Zaiger and his family worked in his nursery and plant hybridizing program. Zaiger also expressed appreciation to John Wynne for the test blocks at the Dave Wilson Nursery for additional field tests to those many acres of test trees at the Zaiger nursery.

When asked about his hybridizing program, Zaiger said, "to succeed all

you need is a devoted, industrious family, produce and evaluate from forty to fifty thousand controlled crosses a year, and then if you are lucky, every few years you may come up with a winner."

Zaiger has indeed produced winners—some are interspecific crosses aimed at producing improved rootstocks that can be used for a wide variety of fruits. He has actually created new kinds of fruits through interspecific crossing—a nectarine-plum cross, a cherry-plum named Sprite, and a plum-apricot, named Plum Parfait, and is working on a peach-apricot. Zaiger also has dwarf peaches and nectarines and a dozen dwarf apples ripening at different times in addition to his dwarf Garden Delicious. Zaiger has developed a dwarf plum, a large fruiting dwarf apricot with low chilling requirements to be released next year and is work-

ing on dwarfing rootstock for stone fruits. He is working on a genetic dwarf pear and an additional Asian pear (pear-apple) to add to his present two Asian pear varieties. Zaiger's semi-dwarf, self-fertile almond is also remarkable.

John Wynne said at the presentation ceremonies that "in spite of the wonders already created by Zaiger, we have seen only the 'tip of the iceberg' of his production for the future."

In all his fruit breeding and hybridizing programs, Zaiger's main objective is to get a flavorful fruit that is good to look at and will ship well. He has discarded many beautiful and delicious fruits that do not meet his high standards of flavor, color, and hardy shipping potential.

In presenting the Research Award

to Zaiger, Wynne stated "in my humble opinion, one day Floyd Zaiger will be acclaimed in history with the same or greater honors than Luther Burbank. For over twenty years Floyd Zaiger has been laying the foundation for an outpouring of new and improved fruit varieties, through techniques that are unmatched in the world today. He has been acclaimed by plant breeders from Europe, Africa, South America, Japan, Israel, New Zealand, Australia, and the United States; and today is actively associated with several foreign governments by assisting in their plant breeding programs."

Stanislaus County in California is proud of the genius of Chris Floyd Zaiger and his family. Zaiger has developed a fruit for all seasons.

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## Harogem Apricot

R. E. C. LAYNE<sup>1</sup>

Harogem was officially introduced on February 5, 1979, at the 13th Annual Meeting of the Western Ontario Fruit Testing Association (WOFTA). It resulted from the cross: Rouge du Roussillon x (Morden 604 x open) made in 1963 at Rutgers University. It was selected at Harrow in 1969 and released for regional trials through WOFTA beginning in 1971 when it was first tested as H6305044 and later as HW405. Harogem has performed well in regional trials in Ontario. Early reports of its performance in British Columbia, Pennsylvania, New York and France are very encouraging.

The tree is upright, of medium vigor, productive, and cold hardy. It is resistant to brown rot and may have tolerance to perennial canker. Leaves and fruits are moderately susceptible

to bacterial spot. Fruits are resistant to skin cracking.

The fruits are exceptionally attractive, having a bright glossy red blush on 60% or more of the skin surface superimposed on a bright orange background. They are roundish, of small to medium size, and ripen uniformly on the tree. The flesh is orange, very firm, free at the pit, and the texture and flavor are good. The fruits hold well at room temperature for about a week and can be stored for 2 or 3 weeks under normal refrigeration (2 to 5°C). This variety is best suited for the fresh market but is also satisfactory for home canning and jam.

Budwood from virus indexed, true-to-name trees is available in limited quantities from WOFTA beginning in August 1979. Trees will be available from WOFTA and NYSFTCA in 1980 and from commercial nurseries in 1981.

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<sup>1</sup>Tree Fruit Breeder, Agriculture Canada Research Station, Harrow, Ontario N0R 1G0.