

Valera, Hardy Giant, Venus and Hedelfingen were the most acceptable overall based on criteria of this study. Other cultivars tested might be successfully grown, but they lack some of the attributes of the 5 chosen. All 4 wax types, Vega, Corum, Napoleon (Royal Ann) and Emperor Francis, were equally susceptible to fruit

cracking.

The 6.0 m between row spacing used in this trial was too close. In order to use this spacing, a rigid pruning program would be required. A 3.5×7.5 m spacing would allow easier movement of equipment and labor between the rows and between trees.

Book Review

Western Fruit: Berries & Nuts, How to Select, Grow and Enjoy. Robert L. Stebbins and Lance Walheim. Horticultural Publishing, P.O. Box 5367, Tucson, AZ 85703. 1981. 192 pages. Illustrated, indexed. \$7.95.

This is an excellent fruit and nut growing soft cover guide for the home gardener in western U.S. and Canada. It gives variety descriptions and cultural methods of many different kinds of fruits.

Climatic maps and charts are especially clear in outlining the best areas and methods of growing various species and varieties. Guides on planting, pruning, propagation and pest control can be easily followed by the home grower. Missing are descriptions of methods for using chemical herbicides which could be safely applied by most home gardeners if they are careful.

Numerous beautiful colored pictures and line drawings illustrate methods. The text is full of very practical horticultural information, e.g., "Cold air travels like water," or "Apple trees will bear on the same wood for many years."

More than two years were spent preparing the book. Dr. Stebbins traveled through California and other states and provinces where he con-

sulted with many fruit breeders, nurserymen and pomologists to improve the variety lists. More than 400 different varieties are described in detail with information on which are best for flavor, storage and ornamental use. Nearly half of the book is about varieties. Charts on varieties are especially well presented. Because of this special emphasis on varieties, this book will be of particular interest to readers of the *Fruit Varieties Journal*.

Topics covered: Climate and fruit behavior; 19 western fruit zones; planting container-grown trees; planting bare-root trees; pests and diseases; pruning; propagating your own varieties; growing fruit in small spaces; fruit varieties; and lists of fruit nurseries, organizations, and extension services of 11 states.

Species described include apple, apricot, avocado, cherry, citrus, fig, olive, peach, pear, persimmon, plum, pomegranate, quince, blackberry, blueberry, currant, grape, raspberry, strawberry, 7 kinds of nuts, and 19 kinds of subtropicals, including banana. This reviewer considers that climates and cultural methods of apple and subtropicals are so widely different that they are not generally included together in the same book.

— R. D. Way