



FRUIT GARDENS



Filberts for Food and Landscape Use

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Those of us interested in the landscape phase are always thinking of as many different kinds of plants as possible that may be used to create pleasing effects. Perhaps we might be criticized for overlooking several plants that would not only assist in creating pleasing effects but at the same time produce edible fruits of good quality. In my own experience I have often recommended the use of grape vines on a trellis to create a screen and at the same time produce fruit. Also in border plantings, like the shrub border, the gooseberries and currants make attractive shrubs and in addition supply fruits. In making these suggestions for plantings one needs to depart somewhat from the usual run of plants and in most instances the homeowner has never thought of using plants for effects as well as for fruits.

Filberts Good Dual Purpose Plants

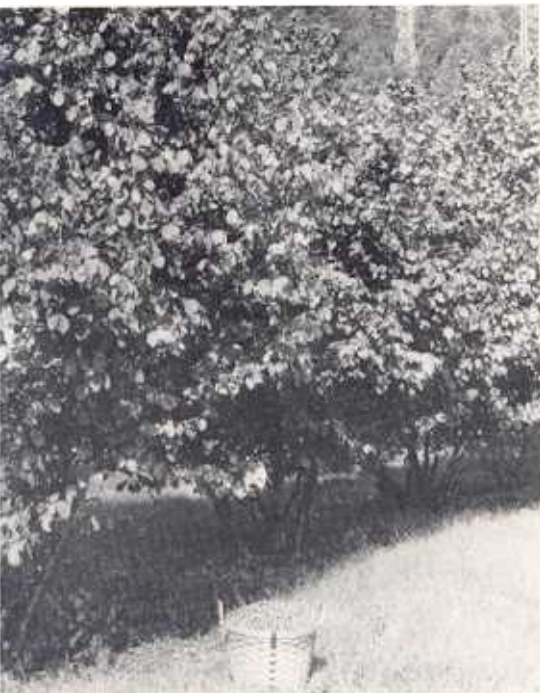
Filberts are certainly outstanding dual purpose plants. They have not been used nearly as much as they should be. If we think of landscape from the broad point of view, we realize that screen or border plantings make up one of the

most important parts of the set-up, especially around rural homes. Practically every farmstead has some unattractive view that needs to be screened out, either partially or entirely. This view may be caused by a lot where farm animals are kept, an old unattractive barn, or even a gullied field. Feedlots and barns, where animals are kept are necessary parts of the farm operations. The gullied field on the other hand may be the result of neglect on the part of the owner. Regardless of the cause for the undesirable scene it can and should be screened from view from the home.

Screen Plantings

In making a screen planting, two plans are possible—one, the shrub border, and the other the hedge row. Filberts are excellent to use in either planting. Where space is at a premium, the hedge offers the best form of screen. Filberts planted two and a half feet apart and pruned in such a way as to make them have a shrub appearance will make an ideal hedge and produce fine crops of nuts of good quality. This hedge can be counted on to be effective up to twelve feet in height.

In the shrub border filberts are allowed to produce many stems and to grow



Four 10-year-old filbert trees bore 50 pounds of nuts in 1947 at Norris Nursery.

into small trees. This is done by pruning, and by using groups of two or three plants in a place, planted some five or six feet apart. Different varieties may be used for different groups, thereby producing a variation of foliage. The filberts will take their place with the well known small trees like the dogwood and the redbud when used in this way.

Still another use for filberts in landscape work is to use them for small trees as lawn specimen plants. They have a size, shape, and foliage that makes them attractive when used in this way.

Cross Pollination Necessary

Our experience has been that there is

need for cross pollination to get maximum yields of fruit. For this reason several different varieties should be used in a planting. Barcelona, DuChilly, and the Jones Hybrids seem to be well suited for this. Of course, there are others, but our experience with varieties is limited.

Soil and Winter Injury

When it comes to the soil for filberts, we find that a fairly rich soil that has plenty of moisture is the best. The soil must drain well because the roots of filberts seem to be very susceptible to poorly drained soil conditions. If there is a lot of sand in the soil, the filberts will need more moisture and fertilizer because they are rapid growers.

Filberts that have received a liberal application of manure applied in the fall and spaded into the top four inches of soil next spring have made the best growth and produced the most fruit.

So far, we have not had any complaints about filberts suffering from winter injury. This may be due to the fact that Kentucky is not using great quantities of these plants, that the varieties used have been reasonably hardy. The little winter injury seen so far has been in the terminal twig growth, and the removal of these twigs in the spring has not caused appreciable alteration of the normal shape of the plant.

Filberts appear to be relatively free from serious damage from insects and diseases. One never knows how long this condition will last.

When it comes to discussing filberts as a food, all that I want to say is that

at Christmas time when you buy mixed nuts you usually get a few of the filberts in the mixture. These nuts are good eating, and when the plants are grown on the home grounds everyone who has them says they are much enjoyed by all members of the family. Our experience has been that filberts yield annually and, if given reasonable care, in good amounts.

In conclusion we would like to say we feel there is not only a place for

filberts in landscape work, but there is an absolute need for greater use of these plants especially in rural plantings. At present, the professional landscape artists are not inclined to recommend them as often as they could, simply because they have not been trained to think of dual purpose plants. Greater publicity as to the value of these plants would undoubtedly mean greater use of them.



THE NATURE OF GIANT APPLE SPORTS

By G. M. Darrow, R. A. Gibson,
W. E. Toenjes, and H. Dermen

1948 Jour. Heredity 39:45-51

Many of our readers who are interested in sports of fruit trees would enjoy reading this article.

Some color sports have proved of great economic value. Russet sports seem not as yet to have been of any commercial importance.

Giant sports have heretofore mostly been mere curiosities, for the trees are quite often unproductive and the fruit usually irregular in shape. In the instances recently discovered, giant sports may prove to be of direct horticultural value. A "giant" Wealthy from Massachusetts is reported to be larger than normal, to have flesh of fine texture, to

tend to overbear less severely than the normal and to be more consistently an annual bearer than the normal. A "giant" Ontario sport seems to bear a fairly adequate crop.

A "giant" sport of McIntosh was found to have a tetraploid condition of all tissues except the epidermis, which was diploid. The tree was very spreading due to wide-angled branching.

In "rogue" type fruit, such as that of some Grimes Golden and Rhode Island Greening trees, where the irregular fruit is mostly smaller than normal, a gene mutation may be involved.

A country-wide search should be made to locate "giant sports" having a tetraploid second histogenic layer, so that they can be used in the production of mass polyploid forms of McIntosh, Jonathan, and Red Delicious varieties which have proved to be valuable as parents at the diploid level.