

## Wilder Medal Awards for 1956

STANLEY JOHNSTON\*

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The American Pomological Society was organized in New York City in 1848 and is now the oldest North American organization primarily interested in the welfare of the fruit industry.

The first president of the American Pomological Society, and for many years its guiding influence, was Marshall Pinckney Wilder. Mr. Wilder was a successful Boston merchant who was fully as interested in his nearby orchard and in testing hundreds of fruit varieties as he was in his mercantile business.

In 1873 the Society established an award to be given to individuals and institutions rendering outstanding service to horticulture—especially to fruit culture—and to comparatively new fruit varieties of proven promise. The award was to be in the form of a beautifully engraved silver medal and was to be named the Wilder Medal in honor of Mr. Wilder. A substantial sum of money was raised by subscription and invested to provide funds for the award in future years. The award has been given since 1873 and the medals are made by the same company in Philadelphia that engraved the first one 83 years ago.

Those recommended to receive the Wilder Medal are chosen by a committee of nine, all of whom are keenly interested in horticulture, and who quite well represent geographically the major fruit growing areas of the country. Present membership of the Wilder Medal committee includes:

Dr. G. Adriance, Dr. R. A. VanMeter, Dr. A. L. Havis, Dr. A. S. Colby, Dr. R. W. Hodgson, John T.

Bregger, Dr. T. A. Merrill, Dr. M. J. Dorsey, Richard Wellington, Stanley Johnston.

The committee this year recommended to President Rollins of the American Pomological Society, the presentation of the Wilder Medal to each of the following individuals:

To **Warren Porter Tufts**, for many years Chairman of the Division of Pomology of the University of California at Davis, California. Through his ability as an administrator and his keen sense of the problems of commercial fruit growing in California, Dr. Tufts rendered outstanding service to horticulture, not only in his own state but in certain other fruit growing areas of the nation.

To **Edmund Frank Palmer**, retiring this year as Director of the Horticulture Experiment Station at Vineland, Ontario. Dr. Palmer became Director of the station in 1916, and from 1934 to 1946 also served as Head of the Department of Horticulture of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph. Dr. Palmer displayed great talents as an administrator and as a plant breeder. The work in breeding and testing varieties at the Vineland Station during his administration has been outstanding. As a sideline, Dr. Palmer became noted as a breeder of gladioli and lilies.

To **Albert Franklin Yeager**, at present Head of the Department of Horticulture of the University of New Hampshire. An able administrator and noted breeder of fruits and vegetables. His contributions have been of great value to horticulture, especially in northern areas.

\*Superintendent, South Haven Experiment Station, Michigan State University; and Chairman Wilder Medal Committee, American Pomological Society.

## WILDER MEDAL AWARDS

To Wilbur William Magill, Extension Horticulturist of the University of Kentucky for the past 33 years, in recognition of outstanding service to the fruit industry of Kentucky and several surrounding states. He has been untiring and unselfish in his efforts to help all fruit growers in his state.



### Variety Testing in Wisconsin

One of the newest fruit variety testing programs in the United States is the one at the Peninsula Branch Station of the University of Wisconsin at Sturgeon Bay, in the heart of the most important fruit area of Wisconsin. In charge of the station is pomologist Frank A. Gilbert. The station consists of 100 acres of land. Its facilities include 200 ft. of greenhouses, screen-houses for isolating planting stocks, cold storage rooms and other buildings. Mr. Gilbert has two Instructors, a project assistant and six civil service employees on a full-time basis, and a total of 35 people working out of the station during the growing season.

The plantings at Sturgeon Bay used for fruit variety studies include the following: a tart cherry planting consisting of four common varieties and several introductions from Europe; sweet cherry and plum blocks for adaptability studies; 28 varieties of strawberries, also for adaptability studies; and a test planting of 50 varieties of apple. The projects under way at the Peninsula Branch Station also include nutritional, weed control, disease control, quality control and rootstock studies with tree and small fruits and potatoes.

### Compatibility in Apple Rootstocks

To my knowledge, no variety has shown any degree of incompatibility with the Malling apple rootstocks. Whether any of them have a degree of incompatibility with the Clark dwarfing wood, I do not know. But I do know that there are demonstrations of an incompatibility when the Clark Dwarf is used in conjunction with Virginia Crab and the Winesap family. This we believe to be basically an incompatibility between the Winesap and Virginia Crab rather than the Clark Dwarf. We would say that Hiberna is definitely to be preferred to Virginia Crab as a body stock because of a disorder that we believe to be a virus disease which is associated with the Virginia Crab.—*R. B. Tukey, Dept. of Horticulture, Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Indiana.*



### Crimson Beauty Apple

Crimson Beauty is listed in "Apples of New York", along with Crimson Pippin and others, as a synonym of Scarlett Pippin. There is, however, another Crimson Beauty which originated at Woodstock, New Brunswick, Canada. It has been grown to some extent as a very early apple, and, until Close was introduced, was our earliest commercial variety. It was listed as Crimson Beauty for years by Stark Bros. Nurseries, but they eventually adopted the name Early Red Bird for this variety. They still list both names, Early Red Bird in heavy red letters and Crimson Beauty in small black type.—*G. H. Dickson, Horticultural Exp. Station, Vineland, Ontario, Canada.*