

Is Its Name Right? (Editorial)

Our note on the Beierschmitt pear in the Summer issue has brought forth a little more information on it from Professor H. L. Lantz of the Iowa Experiment Station. In Iowa, Lantz says, it has fruit quality at least as good as its supposed parent, Bartlett, and is definitely more winter hardy in tree. Not much is available on its resistance to blight and leafspot.

Lantz also tells of the diligence of an Iowa pear grower in checking up on the spelling we used for the Beierschmitt variety name. He had been pretty sure that the originator's family name was spelled with a final "—dt" instead of the double "t." But inquiries made at the Fairbank, Iowa, neighborhood of the late originator confirmed that his name was J. A. Beierschmitt. (We had previously checked this in a letter Mr. B. had written to the New York Experiment Station.) Beierschmitt it is, pronounced (according to Lantz) as if the first syllable were "Buyer"—and take your choice on "—schmitt."

Many catalog compilers are less diligent than the Iowa orchardist. Take, for instance, the case of the late Dr. N. E. Hansen's popular crab apple variety, the Dolgo. A very high percentage of American nurseries now list it as "Dolga." The "o" ending is the original and correct spelling for Dolgo. Perhaps the er-

ror originated because another popular Hansen variety is the (ornamental) crab apple Hopa, whose name indeed does end in "a."

In peach variety names, the "Haven family" perhaps takes the most abuse in spelling. None of the names are hyphenated. A way to get them correct may be to remember that the oldest one, South Haven (named for the town in Michigan) is the only one with its "haven" beginning with a big capital "H." In all the others, the "h" is small because it comes in the middle of a coined word. The proper names of these peach varieties introduced to date are: Halehaven, Kalhaven, Early Halehaven, Redhaven and Fairhaven. The Early Halehaven (a bud sport variety) was not introduced by the South Haven Substation. A possible future introduction is a later sport of Redhaven, but this must wait until 1952 at least. So, nurserymen, go through your proofs and mark them: "(l.c." when you encounter these Michigan peach names.

An amusing grape variety name was found in a West Coast catalog—the "Rubber." "Ribier" was the variety intended. But we have it on good authority that the "Ribier" grape in California is really the French variety Alphonse Lavallee instead of the Gros Ribier. The name has too much elasticity already, without being rubberized.