

Reviews and Abstracts

Plant Patents, Common Introductory Names, 1 Through 1542. 1957. Amer. Assoc. of Nurserymen, 635 Southern Bldg., Wash. 5, D. C. 46 pages. \$2.50

This booklet is a directory of all varieties of vegetatively propagated horticultural plants handled by nurserymen in this country which are patented under the United States patent laws. The directory includes all plant patents from the first to the last one granted in 1956. It contains two listings, the first arranged on a numerical basis. The second is arranged alphabetically by common name of the plant according to variety.

The information given on each variety includes, where possible, the common name, date of patent, originator or discover, and the nursery to whom the patent has been assigned.

This directory was published as a service to plant patent owners and the general public. And the American Association of Nurserymen is to be congratulated for this valuable contribution to horticulture.

Preliminary Evaluation of New and Uncommon Pear Varieties. 1957. By F. S. Howlett. Ohio Agr. Exp. Sta. Research Bul. 790 (North Central Regional Bul. 75). 131 pages.

Dr. Howlett tells us that since the middle of the 19th century there has been a continuous reduction in the number of pear varieties in the United States. The varieties that have survived, with Bartlett in the lead, possess "superior flavor, a satisfactory harvest season, and good keeping quality, which includes post-storage softening without significant loss of flavor. Unfortunately, he points out, we still have no variety of Bartlett quality which is also resistant to fire-blight;

and we still need varieties of Bartlett quality to extend the season of the latter variety.

This bulletin presents data on 120 varieties from a pear collection being maintained at the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station at Wooster partly as a cooperative project between the north-central states and the United States Department of Agriculture. The purpose of the project is to re-evaluate the older varieties for possible commercial use, and to gather information concerning both the old and new varieties for estimating their potentialities as parents in the breeding of improved varieties.

The data reported on each variety in this bulletin include information on origin, source of trees being studied, a brief but concise description of the fruit, harvest date and keeping quality in some instances, as observed at Wooster. Observations on fruit firmness by pressure test of each variety as it approaches harvest maturity, are presented in a series of tables.

Dr. Howlett concludes from his studies that the new or uncommon varieties among those varieties tested which deserve continued trial for commercial or home garden use include the following: Early Seckel, Laxton's Superb, Beierschmitt, Max-Red Bartlett, Laxton's Progress, Russet Bartlett, Ewart, Ottawa 291, Canada 25141, New York 7620, Clyde, Beurre Dumont, Laxton's Record, Madam Ernest Baltet, Dana Hovey and Winter Nelis (Russet Strain).

Modern Commercial Fruit Growing. 1956. By T. Wallace and R. G. W. Bush, Transatlantic Press, Florida. 384 pages. \$21.00

This is a joint effort of 16 outstanding English horticulturists and special-