

Reviews and Abstracts

Fruit Varieties Developed at the University of Minnesota Fruit Breeding Farm. 1957. By W. H. Alderman, A. N. Wilcox and T. S. Weir. Minn. Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 441. 35 pages.

It was the pioneering work of Peter M. Gideon and his introduction of the Wealthy apple in 1868 that led to the initiation of a state supported fruit breeding program in Minnesota. The first step was the establishment of a State Experimental Fruit Farm near Gideon's home at Minnetonka, under his supervision. After Gideon's retirement, this property was sold. A second Fruit Breeding Farm was established at Owatonna in 1887; and this was closed in 1925. The site of the present Fruit Breeding Farm at Excelsior was selected in 1907, and Charles Haralson was its first superintendent. When Haralson retired in 1923, W. H. Alderman took his place. And when the latter retired in 1953, the present superintendent, Dr. L. C. Snyder, took over, with Dr. A. N. Wilcox in direct charge of the fruit breeding program.

The Fruit Breeding Farm occupies some 230 acres. Since 1938, the United States Department of Agriculture has been cooperating with the University in its breeding and testing of fruit varieties at Excelsior by providing assistance through the U.S.D.A. field agents in the area.

Since its establishment, the Excelsior Farm has introduced 64 new fruit varieties, including such outstanding varieties as the Latham red raspberry, Haralson and Beacon apples, and the Red Lake currant. Most of the 64 varieties are described in this bulletin in detail. Many of them are also beautifully illustrated with black-and-white photographs. References to the

original descriptions are made in some instances. The contents of this bulletin should be very useful in areas where winter hardiness is a special problem.



Citrus Fruits. 1957. By H. H. Hume. Macmillan. 444 pages. \$10.50

This is the third revision of what has been one of the outstanding texts on citriculture in the world since it was first written in 1904. It reflects the author's more than 50 years of experience with citrus fruits. Dr. Hume, Dean Emeritus of the University of Florida and author of many other books of horticultural content, is exceptionally well qualified to write on this subject.

If you are concerned with the growing of citrus fruits, this book will provide you with a complete and practical guide to any phase of the operation, from the selection of varieties to the marketing of the fruit. If you are teaching, it will serve you as an excellent text for the classroom. If you are interested in horticultural information generally, "Citrus Fruits" will give you most of what you will want to know about citrus. Our readers will be especially interested in the sections dealing with the botanical aspects, breeding, kinds, origin and varieties of citrus fruits.



Correction: The first sentence in the short item entitled "Elderberries" on page 20, Vol. 12, No. 2 of the *Digest* should read, "There is an increasing interest in cultivated elderberries."