

more or less indifferent in the matter of variety, returned to demand Franklin apples as previously purchased. This variety, then, would seem to offer promise to roadside markets or in a locality where a producer-retail outlet is available. Like McIntosh, Franklin requires careful handling and is possibly no more suited than that variety for wholesale distribution. It is however, fully as firm as McIntosh, the skin is slightly thicker and the relatively short stem decreases the hazard of packing. In general appearance it is the more attractive of the two.

A Swedish critic from the agricultural station at Akarp recently accused Americans of an exclusive

interest in the exterior quality of fruits, the bright red skin which is generally discarded. He is right in his estimate of the American preference for red apples. It is a factor which apparently must be taken into account in our breeding programs. But for real success the apple must satisfy not only the first whim of the public but the final estimate of the customer and producers. Franklin is a handsome apple and in most respects it does handsomely as well. Time will tell its future place among American apple varieties, but certainly it deserves a trial.—Reprinted from Ohio Farm and Home Research, Vol. 37, No. 274, Jan.-Feb., 1952. Ohio Agri. Expt. Station, Wooster, O.

Colby, a Hardy Persian Walnut for the Central States

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When the Reverend Paul C. Crath of Toronto imported walnut seeds and scions from his native Ukraine region and adjacent areas of Poland in the 1920s, he started a chain of propagation and selection which promises to establish the Persian walnut (*Juglans regia*) as a commonly grown nut in southern Ontario and the north central states. The best of his importations, and seedlings from them, are fruiting in such states as Wisconsin, Iowa,

Illinois and Missouri, showing in many cases a degree of hardiness which must reverse the conclusion of an older generation of pomologists that Persian or "English" walnuts were too tender for successful cultivation in most of the middle west.

The time has now arrived when there are enough fruiting trees of the "Crath Carpathian" walnut seedlings in many states that comparisons can be made and the more

promising ones named and disseminated for propagation. The nuts which the Reverend Mr. Crath imported in greatest quantity during the middle 1930s came from more than 100 different seedling trees selected in Poland. Their seedlings exhibit much variability in characters of trees and nuts. Some are much less hardy than others under our conditions. Not all are as large fruited as their seed parents (and some of the parent trees bore small nuts). Though many have smoother shells than Mayette or Franquette, there is also much variation in shape, thickness, and color of shells. Color and flavor of kernel vary from tree to tree. The season of nut maturity, though variable, is generally early enough in locations where the trees are winter hardy. The parents were selected for good filling of kernels, and this character generally has carried over to the seedlings fruited in America. As with other walnuts, some of the Carpathian seedlings are apparently more susceptible than others to fruit damage by the husk maggot. Walnut blight has infected them in some localities.

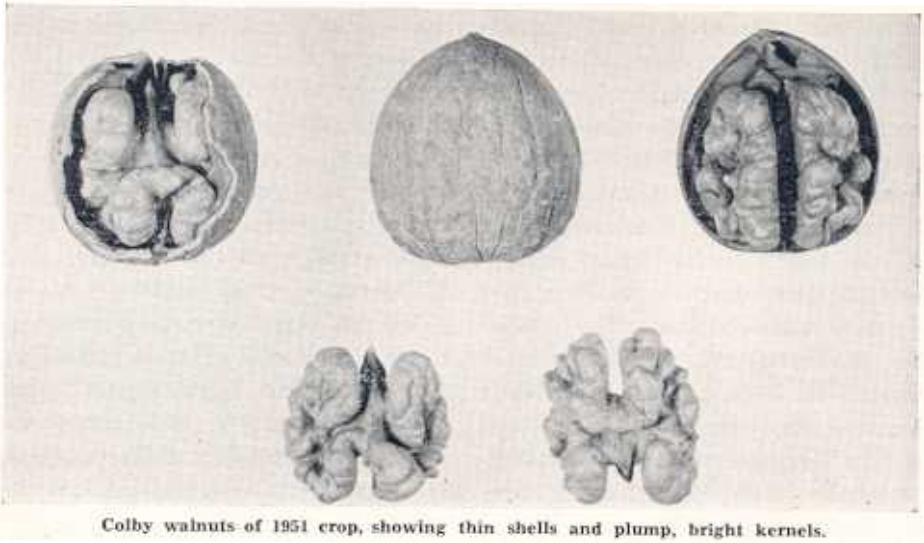
The COLBY Persian walnut, named in August 1951, and released to nut nurserymen for propagation early in 1952, is the best to date of thirteen Carpathian seedlings (each from a different parent tree) planted at the University of Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station from 1937 to 1939. It is the first Persian

walnut variety to be named at this station.

The name, Colby, honors Dr. Arthur S. Colby of the Department of Horticulture at the University of Illinois, who has been in charge of nut investigations here since 1919. It was given to this variety, with his permission, by members of the Northern Nut Growers Association during their 42nd Annual Meeting, held at Urbana in August, 1951. Dr. Colby is a former president of the Northern Nut Growers Association.

Colby is a seedling of the tree designated as Crath No. 10. The seed was collected in 1934 from the parent tree near Cosseev, in the Carpathian mountain region of southern Poland as then constituted, planted in the nursery of S. H. Graham, Ithaca, New York, and the seedling transplanted to Urbana, Illinois at the age of two years. It has been fruiting annually here since 1942; with crops of up to 1¼ bushels in recent years. The accompanying cut shows nuts of the 1951 crop, a little less than 2/3 natural size. They are thin shelled, like the parent Crath No. 10, well filled with kernels of rich flavor, and are medium in size for varieties of this species.

The Colby tree is rather upright in growth, with strong branches, being the most vigorous among the four hardiest Carpathian seedlings at Urbana. It was one of two trees on which most catkins survived the winter of 1950-51, when temperatures at Urbana fell to -19° F.



Colby walnuts of 1951 crop, showing thin shells and plump, bright kernels.

It is among the earliest Persian walnuts to start growth in spring, blossoming at Urbana normally in the first half of May. Flowering is protandrous (male flowers first) but with enough overlap of staminate and pistillate blossoms to secure a large degree of self-pollination from the abundant large catkins. Fruit set might be improved, however, by planting nearby another variety with later staminate catkins.* The nuts mature from the middle to the last of September and have not been seriously affected by walnut husk

freezes. (This is common with Carpathian walnuts in the southeast.) It has survived three winters at Sabula, Iowa with no cold injury and made unusually vigorous growth there. At both Urbana and Sabula, it has been compared with Broadview Persian walnut, a British Columbia origination considered a hardy variety. Broadview has often suffered winter injury at both locations, and in 1950-51 was killed to the understock at Urbana.

The suggested test regions for the Colby Persian walnut include those with a climate similar to central

Illinois, and where spring freezes are not generally a problem. The suggested understock is black walnut (*J. nigra*) though established hardy Carpathian and other Persian walnuts may be satisfactory for top working.

Additional wood for propagation of the Colby will be available in small quantities next August to nut nurserymen and other experiment stations. (Walnut scions cannot be sent from Illinois to California.) Trees of Colby should be available from several cooperating nurseries in the fall of 1953.

Idared Apple, a Correction

In our recent article on "Idared and Idajon Apples" (Volume 6, No. 3, page 49-50), the original author, Dr. Leif Verner, head of the department of horticulture at the University of Idaho, has called our attention to an error which was not in the article as it left his office. (Neither was it in the copy we sent the printer, but our proofreaders didn't get it corrected.)

The last sentence on page 49, and continuing to page 50, should have read, "Like other large fruited varieties, Idared should not be thinned heavily when grown under irrigation." Thinning aggravates the tendency noted by some growers of Idared under irrigation for the earliest crops of this apple variety to grow large and unshapely.

The reports he mentioned in the top of the second column of page 49 were mainly from a few Idaho growers, and not, as the rewritten article failed to make clear, from all the locations in 26 states and Canada where tests of Idared had been initiated.

Another printer's error (or maybe it's my handwriting) appears near the top of page 50. There is no apple called "Esophs Spitzenburg." This should have read "Esopus Spitzenburg," for a variety long noted for its fine flavor as well as being the parent of the Jonathan, and thus a grandparent of both Idared and Idajon varieties from Idaho, the Monroe from the New York station, the Crandall from the Illinois station, and others, even including Joan and King David. Jonared and