

The New Wilder Certificate for Outstanding Fruit Exhibits

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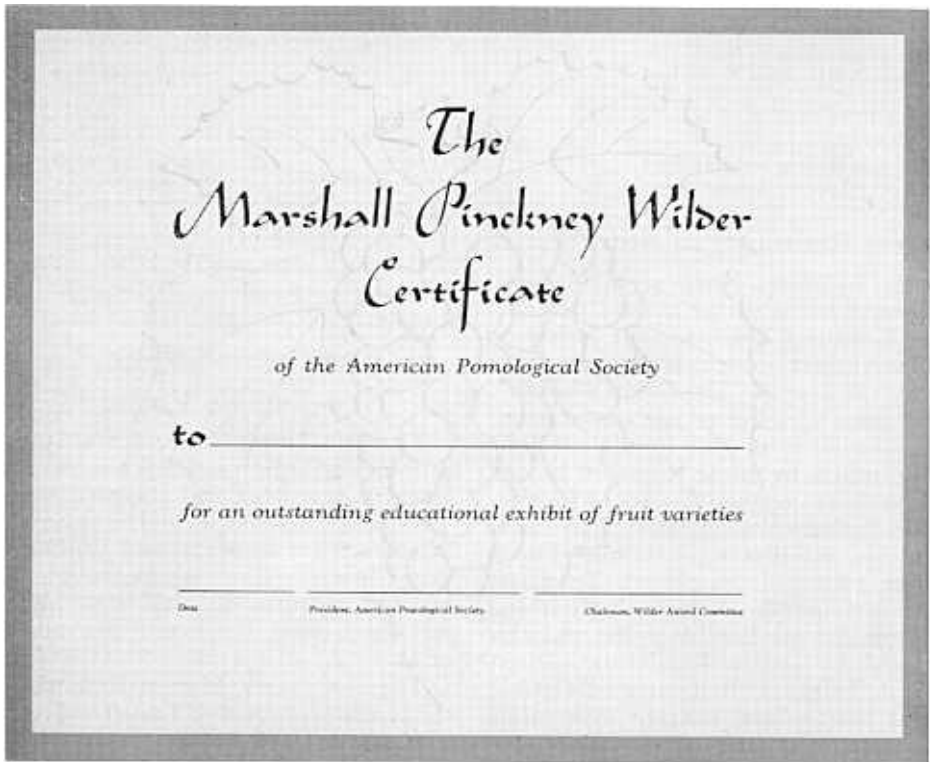
South Haven, Michigan

At the last annual meeting of the American Pomological Society held at Worcester, Massachusetts, in January of this year, it was decided to authorize the Wilder Medal Committee to prepare a certificate to be awarded to outstanding educational exhibits of fruit varieties.

The Wilder Medal was established in 1873 in honor of Marshall Pinckney Wilder, illustrious first President of the Society. Silver and bronze medals were authorized. The silver medal had been conferred on individuals and in-

stitutions rendering outstanding service to horticulture, and occasionally to newer varieties of proven merit. For many years the bronze medal was given to fruit exhibits, but none had been given since 1927.

An illustration of the new Wilder Certificate to be given to outstanding educational exhibits of fruit varieties is shown on this page. Nominations for a Wilder Certificate should be made to the Secretary of the American Pomological Society, Dr. George M. Kessler, Michigan State University,



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East Lansing, Michigan. Accompanying the nomination should be detailed information about the exhibit including a list of the various kinds of fruits exhibited, the number of varieties, and information as to the educational value of the exhibit. The Wilder Medal Committee will study the nominations and decide if any are worthy of a Wilder Certificate.

It is hoped that the awarding of the new Wilder Certificate will help to stimulate the search for useful new fruit varieties. Some of the new kinds may become important commercial varieties. Others could prove to be very helpful to fruit breeders in their search for better breeding material.



Lychee Varieties

It is not often that we hear of lychee being grown in the United States, to say nothing of any new varieties being introduced to the trade. The latest new variety is Peerless which was released in 1956 as originated by C. E. Ware of Clearwater, Florida. The fruit is large, averaging about 16 to 18 per pound. About three-fourths of the fruits are "seedless".

The Bengal variety was released for trial in 1948 by the USDA Plant Introduction Garden at Coconut Grove, Florida. It originated in Calcutta, India, and came into the USA as P. I. 94066. Its fruit is large, up to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long and is produced in large clusters of 20 or more fruits. The flavor is fine. Bengal matures in May and June in Florida.

Groff originated at the Poamoho Branch Station of the Hawaii Agricultural Experiment Station and was introduced six years ago. It has a higher proportion of flesh to seed and is more reliable in bearing than other clones growing in Hawaii.—R. M. Brooks.

Utah Almonds

Nearly all of the new almond varieties introduced during the past years have arisen in California. But at least three have originated and been introduced and tested in Utah. Mr. Arthur Coombe of the Valley Nursery in Ogden, is the originator and introducer of Utah and Northland. The nuts most nearly resemble those of IXL, both being seedlings of that variety; but the important thing is that the trees are very winter hardy. The newest introduction from Utah is Dehn which resulted from selection of a seedling of Northland by Mr. Emil Dehn, also of Ogden. The nuts resemble its known parent and grandparent. It is not known if these varieties have been tested under California conditions.—R. M. Brooks



Rootstocks for Apple

Here in the Midwest, Virginia crab is just about out of the picture as a rootstock for apple because of several serious difficulties that have developed in recent years. Hibernial is practically out of the picture in Washington state and is no longer used in British Columbia.

The folks is Summerland, British Columbia, Canada, seem to prefer the Antonovka stock, and we are working with several selections of it here in our own nurseries. There isn't very much of this stock available and it will continue to be scarce for some time. We like Beacon well because it makes good wide crotches and because it apparently went through the "deep freeze" out in Washington in the Fall of 1955 with practically no damage. We are also using Northwestern Greening, Harralson and Katiaka.—Paul Stark, Jr., Stark Bros. Nurseries, Louisiana, Mo.