

Source for Rare Scions

Dear Mr. McDaniel:

You ask if any reader can furnish true-to-name scions of the *Kawakami* persimmon. I have two trees of *Kawakami* bearing for some years back. I can supply scionwood at 5 ft. for one dollar, 10 ft. for two dollars. No order accepted for less than one dollar. I can supply scionwood of Sheng, Peiping, and Great Wall Oriental persimmons at same price. These varieties are hardy here, no frost damage in 12 years. These are good varieties, bear young.

I once had Bennett from the late Dr. Zimmerman (at Linglestown, Pennsylvania) but lost it. He lost all his Oriental varieties but one. I got a start of that variety from Mrs. Zimmerman, but she doesn't know the name of it and the tree doesn't bear for her although it is plenty old enough. My tree of it is not large enough to bear.

Next year I can supply wood of Fuyu Oriental and some others.

I did know of a man in Maryland who had a collection of Orientals, but lost his address and also don't know if he is living. Will try to find out if he had Bennett when I get some time. I have about 40 new varieties of scionwood for this spring (1952).

FAYETTE ETTER,

Box 57, Lemasters, Pennsylvania.

EDITORS NOTE: Mr. Etter's regular employment is with a utility company, but he is an expert at splicing grafts as well as wires. At a Northern Nut Growers Association meeting a few years ago his grafting virtuosity was demonstrated by photographs of his fruiting Chinese chestnut tops on oak tree stocks. (He used *Quercus montana* and *Q. palustris*; other brave grafters have had some grafts at least temporarily successful on *Q. imbricaria* and other oak species.) The new varieties mentioned in his last sentence include a number of chestnut varieties and hardy Persian (English) walnuts, of which he has one of the largest private collections in the eastern states.

The "hardy" varieties of Oriental persimmon do show better adaptation to the Pennsylvania climate than many of the

older ones grown in the southeastern states, but, like some of the Pennsylvania grown walnuts, they have often failed at similar latitudes farther west. For instance, the latest census credits Illinois with only \$2.00 worth of Japanese persimmons in 1949, and I seriously doubt whether the trees producing these survived our 1950 Thanksgiving blizzard.

—J. C. McD.

The Metzger Apple in Washington

The Metzger apple, originated by Ludwig Metzger of Seattle and recently propagated by the May Nursery Company of Yakima, Washington, has shown a definite weakness which has been rather disappointing to orchardists in the Yakima Valley. This new fruit which tastes something like the old Spitzenberg and looks more like it, has apparently inherited a weakness that may eliminate it completely from the commercial field. This weakness is its susceptibility to fire blight. Perhaps there is a relationship between this weakness and its relationship to the Spitzenberg variety. This year orchards of Metzger have been so completely affected by fire blight that the growers are now planning the complete removal of the trees.

This situation is disappointing in view of the fact that the fruit is attractive, of good quality and ripens at a time when there is little fruit with red color on the market. The size has been very good and fruitstands have paid a top price during late August for this firm, attractive apple.

There is one possibility that may make it advisable to continue the propagation of this variety for use in irrigated districts. Under rill irrigation it does not appear to blight too severely. Orchards that have experienced difficulty this year have all used sprinkler systems. We hope to report later as to whether this apple will continue to produce profitably under irrigation.

—W. A. LUCE,
County Agent, Yakima, Wash.