

True-to-Name Nursery Stock Inspection Program

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The work of the American Pomological Society's Committee on True-to-Name Nursery Stock is concerned with the maintenance and expansion of a service which assists fruit tree nurseries in keeping their varieties true-to-name in the nursery row.

This service was started by the late Dr. Jacob K. Shaw with a few nurseries in New England and New York before 1925, and has gradually expanded until today most of the leading fruit tree nurseries in Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, New York, Ohio, Michigan and Iowa regularly have their apple, pear, plum and cherry trees inspected for trueness-to-name. We understand that a similar service is available to nurseries in at least two Canadian provinces—Ontario and British Columbia.

With the exception of nurseries with headquarters in Iowa, which are handled by Professor A. E. Cott of Iowa State College, the inspection program in the above named states is still being operated by the Massachusetts group. However, some of us who have been in this program from its early days must soon turn the work over to men with younger eyes and legs.

The decision has therefore been made to further decentralize the leadership of the program. Consequently, in recent years, the committee has been actively searching for young pomologists to train with the present leaders and eventually take over the program in the Mid-Atlantic States and in Ohio and Michigan, so that there will be no interruption of service to nurseries in these states.

We are glad to report considerable progress in lining up personnel for these areas. Dr. C. M. Ritter, of Pennsylvania State University, has worked with us three summers in the Mid-Atlantic States and should be qualified to assume the leadership in that area within a few years. Dr. F. O. Hartman, of Ohio State University, is similarly preparing to take over in that state, while in Michigan the State Department of Agriculture has taken an interest in the program and has sent some of their regular inspectors to train with us. Thus, if all goes well the continuance of service in the present areas should be assured.

I am sure that the benefits of programs of this sort to nurserymen, as well as fruit growers, are recognized by most people concerned. However, a few examples may be of interest. Several years ago one block of 40,000 Red Rome apples were identified as Northwestern Greening; and believe it or not, the buds came from an orchardist. Recently a mixture was found in a scion block of trees of virus-free Black Tartarian, from which buds have been furnished to quite a few nurserymen in that state. This past summer trees of the Fenton apple variety have been found to be indistinguishable from those of Beacon.

Because of time limitations, little has been done to expand the program other than to handle new requests from nurseries in the present areas. However, the committee stands ready to assist in any way feasible with the establishment of service of this nature in areas not now being served.

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