

DIXIELAND, AN EARLY STRAWBERRY FOR SOUTHERN STATES

Dixieland is a new strawberry variety released in November, 1953 by the Bureau of Plant Industry and the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. It originated as a seedling from the cross Tennessee Shipper x Midland.

The ripening season of Dixieland is about the same as that of Blakemore, the berries averaging much larger than Blakemore and a deeper red color than the latter variety. The berries are very glossy and have a tough skin. They are about as firm as Albritton and firmer than Blakemore, and rather uniform in shape. The flavor is acid but good.

Dixieland is vigorous and productive, and the plants have not shown any yellow variegation. Yields have been better than those of most other varieties from Washington, D. C. to southern North Carolina and west to Missouri. At Beltsville, Maryland, Dixieland averaged 9672 quarts per acre compared with 5784 quarts for Blakemore. It rates high for freezing, giving a product of excellent color, texture and flavor.

The Dixieland has been tested from New Jersey to North Carolina and west to Arkansas, and is promising throughout this area. It is especially promising as an early variety to precede Albritton.

Plants are not available from either of the originating agencies but can be obtained from cooperating nurseries.

Melrose Apple—A Correction

Dr. Freeman S. Howlett of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station calls our attention to the fact that in the article entitled "More about the Melrose Apple," on page 42 in the Fall 1953 issue of the *DIGEST*, the average picking date of Melrose at Wooster, Ohio is incorrectly given as September 10. This date should have read October 13. Thank you, Dr. Howlett.

To members of the American Pomological Society:

It is of course difficult, if not impossible, for all of you to attend our annual meetings. In view of this fact, those of you who could not be present at our last meeting will appreciate a brief preliminary report at this time.

We met in Indianapolis, January 12 to 14, 1954, together with the Indiana Horticultural Society and the Indiana Section of the Northern Nut Growers Association. We were so well received by our Indiana friends that A. P. S. gained several new Indiana members.

A number of our members took part in the program. There was a comprehensive exhibit of orchard equipment and supplies as well as a large collection of fruit and nut varieties which created considerable interest.

The presentations of the Wilder medals were some of the highlights of the program.

Much of the work of the A. P. S. is carried on by its committees. Therefore, the reports of the chairmen, presented at business sessions of the society, were received with interest and appreciation. The committees for Variety Appraisal and Fruit Gardens have particularly ambitious plans for the coming year.

W. D. Armstrong, who has served us long and faithfully as our Secretary-Treasurer, resigned, and Ronald Tukey accepted the job, in addition to his present duties as business manager of the *Digest*. We're sure he will do a fine job. George Kessler, our editor, hopes to do an even better job this year than last.

We are looking forward to a good year, and to accomplish this we hope to have your full cooperation.

A. S. COLBY, President
American Pomological Society