

Reviews and Abstracts

Western Fruit Gardening. 1953. By R. M. Brooks and C. O. Hesse. Univ. of Cal. Press. 287 pages. \$4.50.

The authors of "Western Fruit Gardening" make a sincere effort, in this book, to present the necessary information which will enable home gardeners in the western part of the United States to grow any of 48 of the more popular fruits and nuts adapted to that region. The book is divided into three parts. Part I. includes detailed and yet not overly technical discussions dealing with the accepted practices used today in the growing of fruit, as well as the principles upon which they are based.

Part II. deals with the fruits individually and their specific requirements as to climate, soil, culture, fertilization and so forth.

Part III. is the last, shortest and probably the weakest portion of the book, and concerns itself with the control of diseases and other pests attacking fruit plants. The authors might also have briefly discussed the control of rodents and weeds in fruit plantings, as well as the control of diseases and insects.

As a whole, the book is exceptionally well put together. Book lovers will enjoy the attractive design, and the helpful and interesting pen-and-ink drawings of "Western Fruit Gardening", and amateur fruit growers will very much appreciate its unsophisticated style.—G. M. K.

Apple Frameworks and Rootstocks in British Columbia. 1953. By A. J. Mann, F. W. L. Keane, and K. Lapins. Canada Dept. Agr. Public. 898.

This publication consists of first, a report on a series of experiments carried on in British Columbia to study the potentialities of double-working tender apple varieties in areas where

severe winters may be expected. Secondly, it includes an evaluation of data obtained from Malling and a few other rootstocks grafted to McIntosh in three orchards of the Summerland Experiment Station.

In the framework or double-working experiments, the authors report on the influence of the framework or interstock variety upon tree size, yield and hardiness of several scion varieties. On the basis of these observations, Canada Baldwin was found to be superior, as a framework, to McIntosh, Virginia and Hibernal, in British Columbia.

In the second part of this publication, observations of Malling I, II, VII, IX, XII and XVI and a few other rootstocks grafted to McIntosh and Delicious were reported. Performance was measured in terms of height, spread, cross-sectional area of the trunk, yield, and color and storage characteristics of the scion varieties over a ten year period. Seedling rootstocks are recommended where a full sized tree is required; Malling II, where a somewhat smaller than standard size is desired; Malling VII for a still smaller tree; and Malling IX where one wants a true dwarf.—G. M. K.

A strain of the Russet Bartlett pear that originated in Jordan Harbour, Ontario, Canada, appears to be a very desirable variety for both canning and fresh market in Ontario province of Canada. J. H. L. Truscott, of the Vineland Horticultural Station in Ontario, reports that samples of ripe Russet Bartlett pears have been handled fresh without marking up badly, and have stored better than the standard Bartlett in both air and gas storage. Ripe fruit of this variety have also been well accepted by 600 consumers who received them in Canada.