

## Reviews and Abstracts

**Blueberry Breeding—Past, Present, Future.** 1960. By G. M. Darrow. The American Horticulture Magazine. 39 (1): p. 14-33.

One of the greatest breeders of small fruits of modern times, Dr. George M. Darrow, presents here a very thorough review of the blueberry breeding program of the United States Department of Agriculture. He begins with the first breeding attempts of Dr. F. V. Coville and follows the development of the program up to the present day.

Most of the important blueberries of the United States, old and new, are described and discussed—parentage, and plant and fruit characteristics, both good and bad. The various native species are also described and their part in the breeding picture pointed out. Many of the possible objectives for a breeding program for future blueberry varieties are listed.

Much of the above information is presented in very convenient tables. Also included are a number of fine photographs of blueberry varieties and species.



**Idaho Fruit Varieties.** 1959. By A. S. Horn, Leif Verner and D. F. Franklin. Idaho Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul. 300. 19 pages.

Tree and small fruit varieties recommended for commercial and amateur growers of Idaho are listed and described. To allow for differences in climatic requirements of varieties, recommendations are made on a zone basis. The most northern zone is suitable mainly for only the hardier apple varieties. The warmest sites in the most southern zone are apparently suitable even for the European grapes such as Thompson Seedless. The recommendations for commercial plantings for several of the fruits are as

follows:

**Apple**—McIntosh, Jonathan, Delicious, Rome Beauty and Golden Delicious. (Red sports are preferred). Idared for trial.

**Pear**—Bartlett, Bosc, Anjou.

**Apricot**—Riland, Tilton; Blenril and Earliril for trial (southernmost zone only).

**Peach**—J. H. Hale, Early Elberta, Redhaven, Dixired, July Elberta, Rio-Oso-Gem.

**Sweet Cherry**—Bing, Lambert, Royal Anne. Spalding, a recent Idaho introduction, large, black and firm, for trial.



**Mist Propagation of Cuttings.** 1960. By Patricia Rowe-Dutton. Digest No. 2, Commonwealth Bureau of Hort. & Plantation Crops, East Malling, Maidstone, Kent, England. 135 pages. \$1.40.

This is an excellent review of the research that has been done on mist propagation in England and other countries. The various propagation structures and mist control devices that have been used are described and illustrated. A number of other subjects and problems related to mist propagation are discussed—shading, leaching and growth substances. An extensive bibliography is presented, as well as a fine table which summarizes the results obtained from mist propagation of a long list of plant species, including many of the fruits.

The authoress points out the advantages claimed for mist propagation—that cuttings can be made earlier in the season; that a higher percentage of rooting can be obtained with shy-rooting species; that it saves labor. She also points out the problems, such as the danger of leaching and water-logging of the rooting medium when too much water is used.