

A New Publication is Born

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The American Pomological Society is proud to present the first issue of its new publication **FRUIT VARIETIES AND HORTICULTURAL DIGEST** to be issued quarterly under the editorship of Dr. W. P. Judkins of the Department of Horticulture, Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, Wooster, Ohio.

This new publication is another step in the program of the American Pomological Society to create a renewed interest in the importance of the variety in fruit growing.

Previous Work With Varieties

The period from 1850 to 1900 was one of transition in American fruit culture from the growing of seedlings to named varieties. Naturally a host of new varieties were introduced and there was much confusion. At this time the American Pomological Society rendered the fruit industry a valuable service by gathering information concerning new varieties and appraising them. The APS Catalogue of Fruits became the best available source of authentic information concerning varieties, and was widely used.

In later years the interest of the fruit industry became centered on other things such as new developments in spray materials and equipment, nutritional problems, and new ideas in processing and marketing. All of these are very important and must not be slighted, but during the last thirty or forty years comparatively little attention has been paid to the variety problem.

This is not as it should be, as success or failure in fruit growing, other factors being about equal, depends largely upon the choice of varieties.

New A. P. S. Program

In order to create a renewed interest in the variety problem, the American Pomological Society is now carrying on the following four-point program:

1. The APS and the American Association of Nurserymen are conducting a cooperative variety survey to determine variety trends. This study should furnish information of great value to both the nurseryman and the fruit grower.
2. The listing of new varieties as they appear together with brief descriptive notes is being continued. The APS has the most complete set of such records available in the country in printed form. This information is of particular usefulness to nurserymen and plant breeders.
3. The awarding of the Wilder Medal is being revived. This medal, issued by the Society in 1878 in honor of Marshall P. Wilder, first president, was given to outstanding fruit varieties for many years. It is again to be bestowed upon varieties of proven merit, and should serve as a stimulus for the development of better varieties.
4. The publication of **FRUIT VARIETIES AND HORTICULTURAL DIGEST**, it is believed, will be of great interest to thousands of fruit growers, nurserymen, plant breeders and amateur fruit growers who are keenly interested in the origin, history and appraisal of fruit varieties. It is hoped that the publication will serve as an open forum for variety discussions and exchange of information. It should render a distinctive and valuable service to the American fruit industry.