

Reviews and Abstracts

A Checklist of Woody Ornamental Plants of California. 1963. By Mildred E. Mathias, and Elizabeth McClintock, Agr. Exp. Sta. Manual 32, Univ. Cal., Berkeley. 65 pages. \$0.75.

This manual lists some 6000 scientific, hybrid, cultivar and common names, including numerous synonyms, all cross-referenced, and arranged alphabetically. The vast majority of woody ornamentals in the California nursery trade are included, the main sources of names being nursery wholesale catalogs.

The authors checked the nomenclature against several references, 14 of which are cited. Concerning their checklist they state: "The names are in accordance with the international codes of botanical and horticultural nomenclature."

According to the Agricultural Code of California, "Ornamentals, except roses and annual or herbaceous perennial ornamental plants shall be labeled with the botanical name." Although this checklist was compiled to guide nurserymen and others in the labeling of nursery stock in compliance with this Code, it is not official.

The cultivars of the common edible fruit and nut trees were omitted from the list because "the rules concerning their listing in the trade do not require the botanical name." Some pomological fruit species, however, are included in the list, namely, apple, apricot, avocado, cherry, chestnut, various citrus, currant, fig, filbert, loquat, nectarine, olive, peach, pear, pecan, persimmon, plum, pomegranate and walnut. Only the common names of the ornamental forms of these spe-

cies are given, such as flowering almond for *Prunus amygdalus*, and flowering apricot for *P. armeniaca*.

Although the checklist serves as a quick and reliable means of finding the botanical names for many fruits, one should not rely on all common names given for fruit plants as being correct from the pomological viewpoint.—R. M. Brooks

Descriptions of One-Year Apple Varieties. 1963, By W. D. Weeks and J. F. Anderson. Ext. Publ. 394, Univ. Mass. 26 pages.

This is the latest in a series of publications of the University of Massachusetts intended primarily to provide an aid for determining the variety names of one-year old fruit trees in the nursery row.

The apple varieties described in this bulletin includes the more common ones being grown in the U. S. and Canada that were introduced since the publication of "Description of Apple Varieties," Mass. Exp. Sta. Bul. 403. The descriptions are technical and concise, and include growth habit, bark, lenticels, petiole, stipules, leaf position, and the size, shape, surface and serrations of the leaf blade. Opposite the descriptions are black-and-white photographs of two leaves of each variety.

This publication should prove very helpful for identifying the newer apple varieties in the nursery, thereby preventing variety mixtures.

—G. M. K.