

of interest to note that analyses of the following clones used in crosses at this Station have confirmed the results obtained at the Geneva Station: Black Monukka, Campbell Early, Chasselas Golden, Delaware, Goethe, Golden Muscat, Keuka, Mills, Muscat Hamburg, Seneca, Sultanina, and Winchell. Of these clones only Muscat Hamburg and Seneca are homozygous hermaphrodites.

### Oriental Persimmons

One of the most exotic, commercially grown fruits of the U. S. is the oriental persimmon. According to a staff writer of *The Blue Anchor* (Nov. '63 - Jan. '64), there are about 625 acres of this fruit in California, where it is mainly grown.

The oriental persimmon is native to China, and was introduced into this country from Japan in 1828. Of the varieties grown in California there are two main types—one which is sweet while it is still quite firm, and the other which is astringent (puckery) until it is soft and ripe. The latter varieties are artificially ripened by treating the fruit with ethyl alcohol, acetic acid, or carbon dioxide.

Persimmons are propagated by budding or grafting, and three species are used as rootstocks in California, namely: *Diospyros virginiana* (native), and *D. lotus* and *D. kaki* (oriental species), the latter being the most generally used. There are about 1000 varieties in Japan, but only several varieties of commercial importance in California.

**Hachuya** is the most popular variety, making up 90 percent of the California acreage. The fruit is acorn-shaped, large, attractive, orange-red when ripe, usually seedless, and astringent until soft. It ships well.

**Hyakume**, second in popularity, is ovate, large, orange with dark brown russeting when ripe, of good quality,

and astringent until ripe. It also ships well.

**Tamopan** has a distinctive blocky shape, with a crown. It is large, seedless, has a pleasant flavor, and is astringent until soft.

**Taneshi** is usually seedless, large, conic, light orange, pleasant tasting, but mealy when ripe. It is astringent until soft, and its thick skin and firm flesh make it an excellent shipper.

**Fuyu** is oblate, medium-sized, seeded, a beautiful tomato-red when ripe, and has a spicy, non-astringent flavor even while still firm.

**Maru** is medium to small, round, very attractive, richly flavored when soft, and has excellent shipping and keeping quality.

### Strawberry References from Europe

Dr. George Darrow, noted strawberry breeder, calls our attention to a few valuable references from abroad, on strawberry varieties. One of these is an article in the French *Annales de L'Amelioration de Plantes*, Vol. 12 (1962), on June bearing varieties, by J. O. Brossier, of the Southern Research Station at Montfavet, France. Dr. Darrow tells us that it is a monumental work of 142 pages, with descriptions of varieties, illustrations of flowers and fruits of each, and a list of species and varieties, with keys for their identification.

The July, 1964 issue of *L'Italia Agricola* contains a 150 page section on the strawberry, includes 17 articles, and many magnificent color plates of both American and European varieties.

Both of the above references ought to be translated into English, says Dr. Darrow, for the benefit of those in the English speaking countries who are interested in strawberries.