

## For Reviews and Abstracts

### **Principles of Horticultural Production.**

1966. By B. R. Gardner. Mich. State University Press. 5 pages. \$15.00.

This very scholarly work is, in many respects, a revised version of the book, "Fundamentals of Fruit Production, of which Dr. Gardner was the senior author, and which has served as the standard text for advanced college courses in Fruit Science in North America for many years. As in the older book, but even more so, research with plants other than fruits is frequently cited in this one, to develop and expound the principles of fruit production.

Dr. Gardner also makes frequent reference to tropical and sub-tropical plants such as coffee, cacao, rubber and citrus fruits, as well as to the common temperate fruits. Undoubtedly, the author's experiences with and observations of tropical and subtropical fruits in South America and in Florida where he lives, have broadened his approach to the many problems of fruit production. Many of us will have to agree with the following statement in the preface: "What is learned about other crops may throw more light on the problems of apple production than study of a narrow specialty."

The author's broad approach to fruit production is also reflected by the varied sources of his 2825 citations, which originated in many lands and in many languages—Australia, Tanganyika, Netherlands, Soviet Union, Venezuela, Israel, etc.

The various phases of crop production which are discussed—fertilization, irrigation, pruning, thinning, weed control, and so on, are dealt

with on a "why" basis rather than on a "how-to-do-it" basis. Dr. Gardner is mainly concerned with the relation of the plant to its environment, and with the response of plants to farm practices which alter the environment or the plant's relation to it.

Many American and British readers will at first find it difficult to adjust to the author's use of the Centigrade scale wherever he quotes temperatures, and the metric system for other measurements. However, since Dr. Gardner is directing himself to students and growers throughout the world, he is certainly justified in doing it.

I wonder if this otherwise high quality book wouldn't be more attractive and effective with an additional 50 or more good illustrations.

Nevertheless, I am certain that students, teachers and enlightened growers will find "Principles of Horticultural Production" a very valuable reference. We congratulate Dr. Gardner for a difficult job well done.

—G. M. Kessler

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**The Peach** (Proceedings of the National Peach Conference). 1965. Compiled by N. F. Childers, L. B. Albrigo and E. G. Christ. Dept. Hort. and Forestry, Rutgers—The State University, New Brunswick, N. J. 281 pages. \$2.50 in U. S. and Canada; \$2.75 overseas.

This is a soft-covered, compilation of papers dealing with a variety of subjects related to peach culture, storage, handling and marketing, which were presented at the National Peach Conference held at Rutgers University

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Dr. Gardner was formerly Director of the Mich. Agr. Exp. Station, and is a winner of the Wilder Silver Medal.

in March, 1965. The authors are to be highly commended for making available, in published form, the reports of numerous peach experts of the U. S. and Canada, representing government, experiment stations and private industry.

Our readers will be particularly interested in the section on varieties, and breeding objectives and needs. Many outstanding peach breeders and testers are represented, including H. W. Fogle, E. A. Rogers, J. B. Mowry, G. D. Oberle, F. E. Correll, R. H. Sharpe, Catherine Bailey, Fred Hough, R. C. Lamb, G. M. Weaver.

Many of you will want to find out what the thinking is among fruit breeders in different regions—what their goals are, and how they differ from peach breeders in other regions than their own in their goals. In New York, for example the breeders are particularly interested in finding peach varieties with a long rest period, since such varieties are less likely to lose cold resistance during January and February thaws, and therefore be less subject to winter injury during subsequent cool periods.

—G. M. Kessler

**The Gold Star Carambola.** 1965. by C. W. Campbell. Circ. S-173, Fla. Agr. Exp. Sta., Gainesville, Fla.

The carambola (*Averhoa carambola*) is an interesting tropical fruit which has possibilities as a specialty fruit for commercial shipment, and is growing in popularity in Florida as a door yard tree. The attractive star-shaped transverse sections of the fruit are especially nice for fruit and vegetable salads. But the culture of the carambola is limited to the warm areas of southern Florida because the tree is injured by temperatures of 27° to 29°F.

The Gold Star variety produces

fruit that is superior to most seedlings. It is more or less oval in shape, about 4 to 5 inches long, with 4 to 6 prominent longitudinal ribs. The fruit weighs 4 to 8 ounces. Skin is golden yellow and very waxy. Flesh is juicy, crisp, and has an agreeable, mildly subacid to sweet flavor. It is high in carbohydrates and vitamins A and C.

The tree of Gold Star reaches a height of 20 feet, is quite wind resistant, and exhibits both flowers and fruits throughout the year. Trees at Homestead, Florida have borne from 100 to 300 pounds of fruit annually.

Scionwood for grafting may be obtained by nurserymen from the University of Florida Sub-Tropical Experiment Station, Homestead, Fla., 33030.

—G. M. Kessler

### Varietal Changes in Apple and Peach Industry of Virginia

Major varietal changes have been occurring in the apple industry of Virginia, according to a report by George R. Williams made at the January meeting of the New Jersey Hort. Society. A 1963 survey showed that there were more trees of Delicious than York in Virginia for the first time. Of half a million trees planted between 1956 and 1963, 50% were Delicious, 19% Golden Delicious, 10% York, 6% Winesap, 4% Rome Beauty. Spur types of Delicious and Goldens are being heavily planted, and 87% of all trees set out in 1963 were red sports of all varieties.

Significant changes in peach varieties were also reported. Although Elberta still led in tree number, it dropped from 445,000 trees in 1956 to 252,000 in 1963. Sunhigh ranked second, Redhaven third. Other popular varieties included Rio-OsO-Gem, Ambergem, Blake, Washington and Jefferson.