Reviews and Abstracts

The Bluehaven and Northland Blueberry Varieties. By Stanley Johnston and J. E. Moulton. Mich. State Univ. Quart. Bul., Vol. 50 No. 1, Aug. 1967, p. 46-49.

Bluehaven and Northland are the first blueberry introductions resulting from a breeding project that was initiated at the South Haven Experiment Station in 1925.

Bluehaven (Berkley x 19-H) is a vigorous, hardy, productive, upright highbush type plant (5 ft. high when mature), which ripens its fruit with Bluecrop, about July 25 at South Haven.

The berry is large, round, light blue, quite firm, has a very small, dry picking scar, and excellent flavor. And because the fruit retain their quality well on the bush, even after they are ripe, they can be picked over a four to six week period. The fruit tend to ripen together, and can be harvested in two pickings.

Bluehaven is recommended for any area where the highbush blueberry thrives.

Northland (Berkley x 19-H) looks more like a highbush blueberry than does Bluehaven. The plant is very productive and hardy, 4 ft. high at maturity, and moderately spreading. The berries of Northland are round, medium blue, medium in size and firmness, and good in flavor. The picking scar is small and dry.

The bush can be harvested with small machines, provided that the lower branches are removed each year. Its hardiness, very early ripening season (July 10 at South Haven), low height, the pliability of its branches, which enables the bush to resist breakage under the weight of heavy snow, make Northland well adapted to northern Michigan.

Both Northland and Bluehaven have withstood winter temperatures as low as —24° F, and have yielded well in spite of —17° F, May 10, 1966, when blossoms were partially open.

Plants cannot be bought from Michigan State University, but will be available from Michigan nurseries in 1968.—**G. M. Kessler**

Introduction to Plant Breeding. 1967. By F. N. Briggs and P. F. Knowles. Rheinhold Publishing Corporation, New York. 426 pages. $12.50.

While the evolving science of plant breeding has contributed spectacularly to the efficiency in crop production over the past 100 years, the next century will impose unprecedented demands on plant breeders, if the population of the world continues to increase at its present rate. Not only the quantity but the quality of food and other plant products must be improved. The opportunities for careers in this field are increasing and challenging. It is in this stimulating vein that the authors begin their book with a chapter entitled "Perspectives in Plant Breeding."

This text was intended primarily for use in a college course in plant breeding by advanced undergraduate students who have had courses in general botany and genetics. Anyone, however, with an interest in crop improvement and some knowledge of biology and genetics, will find it a valuable book.

The emphasis is on breeding principles rather than individual crops. Because many of basic principles can be well illustrated by reference to research with wheat as representative of self-pollinated crops and corn for cross pollinated crops, methods used with these crops are discussed in some detail. Where appropriate, examples from horticultural crops are used to explain certain principles. Those in-