

Reviews and Abstracts

Plant Propagation. 2nd Edition, 1968.

By H. T. Hartmann and D. E. Kester. Prentice-Hall. 702 pages.

Basically, this book is the same excellent text as the first edition, but expanded and somewhat revised in some portions, especially the reference and recommended reading lists. Some of the new material deals with internal factors and cofactors influencing the rooting of cuttings and stock/scion incompatibilities.

Several propagation techniques not included in the old edition are described, namely, herbaceous grafting, nurse-seed grafting, cutting-grafts, and microbudding of citrus. A new chapter entitled, "Aseptic Methods of Micro-Propagation," deals with tissue and embryo culture. And the section on clonal apple rootstocks is brought up-to-date.

Every plantsman, professional and amateur alike, will want to add this valuable new edition of "Plant Propagation" to his shelf.

—G. M. Kessler

Fruits for the Home Garden. 1968.

By Ken and Pat Kraft. Wm. Morrow & Co. 287 pages \$6.95.

The American amateur fruit grower now has available to him a very useful, up-to-date, reference book, thanks to Ken and Pat Kraft and their primary consultant, Paul Stark, Jr. The long list of other well known pomologists and nurserymen consulted by the authors include H. B. Tukey, Stanley Johnston, George Slate, John Bregger, David Armstrong and others, most of whom have at one time been actively involved in A. P. S. affairs.

Fruits for the Home Garden is not dry reading, as reference books are prone to be. It is written in an interesting, folksy style, rich in anecdotes and stories gleaned from the

extensive research and gardening experiences of the Krafts.

A. P. S. readers will find the historic notes on the different fruit varieties quite interesting. However, the list of apple varieties recommended by the authors, consisting predominantly of patented Stark Bros. varieties, may appear a bit biased to some.

The line drawings scattered through the text are well done and instructive. The twenty-five colored plates are excellent and add zest to this fine addition to American pomological literature.

—G. M. Kessler

Sure Crop Pear

The Sure Crop pear is a variety found early in this century in Bentonville, Arkansas, and introduced by Ozark Nurseries, of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. It is somewhat resistant to fire blight. Although not grown commercially in Oklahoma, it has been widely planted by amateurs. The tree is productive, and the fruit is of better quality than Kieffer, and keeps very well. The tree has a poor branching habit, which gives it a ragged appearance. —*Herman Hinrichs, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Okla.*

Penn Stayman Apple

A mutation of the Stayman apple, Penn Stayman was found in 1954 in the orchard of Penn State University by its superintendent, Oscar Williams. It is an improvement over Stayman in that the fruit has a brighter red color and a smooth clear finish. After being thoroughly tested by C. M. Riter, Professor of Pomology at Penn State, it is now being propagated by Adams County Nursery, Aspers, Penna. 17304.