Reviews and Abstracts

Evaluation of Pear Varieties for Georgia. 1966. By B. O. Fry and E. K. Heaton. Univ. of Ga. Circ. N. S. 51.

The pear selections reported were mostly ones developed by southern breeders. The authors were particularly interested in resistance to fire blight, leaf spot, and processing quality.

The varieties Moran, Michigan 437, Carrick, Orient and Waite, showed the greatest resistance to fire blight. Orient and Walker rated highest in leaf spot resistance. Kieffer and Orient produced the largest fruit. Michigan 437, Carrick, Orient and Starking Delicious were best for canning. Although Kieffer is the leading variety in the south, it is not considered desirable for processing.

Magness and Moonglow had not been tested long enough to provide conclusive data. —*G. M. Kessler*

Plant Science. 1969. By J. Janick, R. W. Schery, F. W. Woods and V. W. Ruttan. W. H. Freeman & Co. 629 pages. $12.00.

This attractive book was designed to serve mainly as a text for a university level, introductory course or series of courses in crop science, which is replacing, in some institutions, the traditional beginning courses in agronomy, forestry and horticulture. I doubt if introductory agricultural economics could or should be included in this group, as suggested by the publisher on the jacket of the book. I'm sure that "Plant Science" will prove very useful where such plant or crop science courses are being taught.

Enough fundamentals of plant structure, growth and physiology, as well as soils are included in this text, so that the student or reader with weak backgrounds in any of these areas will be able to approach the crop aspects of the book with adequate understanding.

"Plant Science" is divided into 6 parts: (1) Plants and Men; (2) Nature of Crop Plants; (3) Plant Environment; (4) Strategy of Crop Production; (5) Industry of Plant Agriculture; (6) The Marketplace. It contains useful statistics, tables, illustrations and maps, as well as helpful lists of selected references at the end of each chapter.

Since "Plant Science" is written as an introductory book, it does not get highly technical, and should make enjoyable and profitable reading for any lover of plants. —*G. M. Kessler*

Blueberry Breeding in Florida

A blueberry breeding program was initiated at the University of Florida in 1951, according to R. H. Sharpe, fruit breeder for that University. Its goal was, and still is to develop low-chilling commercial varieties that ripen before late May. Fast ripening Michigan and New Jersey varieties were crossed with low-chilling native species of Florida. Selections with good fruit flavor and size, and low-chilling characteristics have been obtained from some 80,000 seedlings (as of 1967). However, summer adaptation, vigor, and disease resistance have so far eluded the breeders. Yet, they are not discouraged, and are hopeful of making the blueberry Florida's leading deciduous fruit.