

- P. 4 Dynamiting planting holes
- 5 New Zealand Nashi



WINTER 1988

WCTFA

- 7 WCFS Resident Experts
- 9 1988 Fall Fruit Show Inventory
- 13 Buying Fruit Trees

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan 10th
Tuesday 10 am and 7 pm Everyone can garden by Maureen Phillips, horticultural therapist and instructor at Edmonds Community College (good class for those of us who are not getting any younger) WSU/Snohomish County Extension Education Center in south Everett.
- Jan 30th
Monday 10 am WCTFA Board Meeting, WSU/Snohomish County Extension Education Center in south Everett, all members welcome to attend
- Feb 16th
Tuesday 10 am and 7 pm Basics of pruning ornamental trees and shrubs by Dan Douglas, WSU/Snohomish County Extension Education Center in south Everett
- Feb 25th
Saturday 9 am Raintree Nursery offers free classes near Morton at Onalaska Grade School for beginning fruit growers, Asian pears, fruit varieties, nut trees, rejuvenating old orchards, landscaping, nursery visit, grafting--496-6400 for more information
- Feb 26th
Tuesday Commercial tree fruit workshop for apple growers in western Washington at Mt. Vernon. For more information, contact extension office in Skagit or Whatcom counties.
- Mar 4th
Saturday 9 am Annual WCTFA spring meeting- scionwood/rootstock sale, at WSU/Snohomish County Extension Education Center in south Everett
- Mar 11th
Saturday 9 am Cloud Mountain Nursery offers free classes on growing tree fruit, small fruit, kiwis, Asian pears and figs and on edible and ornamental landscapes. Everson--966-5859 for information
- Mar 14th
Tuesday 10 am and 7 pm Fruit varieties for the Puget Sound area by Nancy Jo Cushman, WSU/Extension Education Center in south Everett
- Mar 25th
Saturday 12:20 to 2:30 free pruning workshop at Cloud Mountain Nursery, Everson, 966-5859
- Mar 28th
Tuesday 10 am and 7 pm Gardening without chemicals by Sharon Collman, WSU/Extension Education Center, Everett
- April Commercial workshop on orchard management by Tom Thornton of Cloud Mountain Nursery, second day will be field work in July. Charge, 966-5859.
- Aug 9-11 NAFEX meeting near Toronto, followed by visit to New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative at Geneva, we hope. Let us know if you're interested.

Winter 1988

TOUR JAPAN WITH DR. NORTON

All of us who have enjoyed Dr. Norton's talks on his visits to Japan will be delighted to discover we can go with him next time. Sam Benowitz and Maida Richman-Benowitz of Raintree Nursery have arranged for Dr. Norton to lead a horticultural tour of Japan, September 21st to October 5th.

Cost of the tour is \$3195 per person (double occupancy) and includes transportation, accommodations, breakfasts and Dr. Norton's expertise. The tour is limited to 30 persons. For more information and application forms, contact Asian Sky Travel Service, 100 NE 56th, Seattle, 98105; 527-4852.

Dr. Norton promises a delightful tour of the fruit growing regions of Japan from the northern region of Hokaido which has a climate similar to our own to the semi-tropical citrus growing region in the south. The tour will include commercial orchards, experiment stations and traditional Japanese gardens.

PESTICIDE LICENSING CLASSES OFFERED

Individuals who professionally use or provide advice on the commercial use of pesticides and those who use "restricted use" pesticides need to obtain the appropriate pesticide license from the WSDA.

Training and tests are available at the following western Washington locations:

Jan 11-13	Mt. Vernon	Feb 14-16	Everett
Jan 17-19	Tacoma	Feb 22-24	Olympia
Jan 24-26	Kelso		

Recertification credit for those who already have a pesticide license is available at:

Jan 9-10	Mt. Vernon	Feb 15-16	Everett
Jan 18-19	Tacoma	Feb 22-23	Olympia
Jan 25-26	Kelso		

For more information and registration forms contact your local county extension office. As a general rule, a homeowner who sprays non "restricted use" pesticide on his own property does not need a license.

NEW CHAPTER FORMING

The South Puget Sound Chapter of WCTFA will have an organizational meeting in late January in Olympia. Plans are to have a scionwood exchange, local tours and a mini fruit show in the fall.

Fruit enthusiasts from Lewis, Thurston, Mason and Grays Harbor counties are invited to join this local chapter. If you have not received information about the organizational meeting by the first week of January, contact James Stephenson, 1239 E 8th St, Olympia, 98501; 352-8861.

FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FRUIT SHOW WRAP UP--All in all, everyone seemed pleased with the Port Townsend show but agreed we do need more publicity for future shows. Approximately \$500 was cleared after expenses. Many visitors commented favorably on the arrangement and decorations of the fruit display (thanks again to the efforts of Emery Leland) and, of course, the wonderful aroma of 525 plates of apples.

Since the fruit shows are primarily educational, the board feels we could do a better job in explaining the basics of tree fruit growing. We would like to have panels (similar to the "10 Best Apple Display") showing how to graft, prune, train, thin fruit and even how to plant a tree. A drawing of a suitable backyard orchard layout with pictures of the trees on site would be helpful, too. Any volunteers out there? If so, please contact a board member or come to the next meeting. Expenses will be paid for approved projects.

NOMINATIONS NEEDED--It's that time again. We need 3 board members to replace 3 whose terms are expiring. Send your suggestions to President Parker or another board member. New board members will be elected during the annual spring meeting. Officers will be selected by the board after this meeting.

NAME CHANGE--We're still dithering around with a name change for Western Cascade Tree Fruit Association. You do have to admit it's rather a mouthful. We would like the new name to be shorter and to emphasize the amateur status of most of our members now. We're not kicking out our commercial members, after all they were instrumental in starting WCTFA, but because of our non profit status we cannot get involved in any commercial concerns.

The board has come up with several names and would like the membership to indicate a preference. Please fill out and mail the ballot on the back page. There's also a place to add your own suggestions if you're inclined. We would like to hear from as many members as possible fairly soon, so the name change could be voted on at the spring meeting. Be sure to read Max Meyers' article on suggested names, too.

A NEW NAME FOR OUR ORGANIZATION *by Max Meyers*

There has been some talk about changing the name of our organization. I hope to stimulate some interest among our membership.

Both the Home Orchard Society name and ours have limitations within the name itself. Western Cascade limits us to an area. The words "Tree" and "Orchard" limit the kinds of fruit we cover. We have members in our chapters that raise kiwis, grapes, blueberries, strawberries and much more. None of the above can be described as a tree or as an orchard. I believe these words should be eliminated from our name. We need to make welcome all types of fruit growers and make it known by our name.

Most of our members are hobbyists or amateurs. This can be used in

the name. Amateur would limit us by making professionals not welcome. If we use the word "Home" as Home Orchard Society has, we have not eliminated the professionals. Many professionals have home orchards. There is one other consideration I believe we need to address which does not fall into the fruit category but does fall into the orchard category. That is the "nut". This could be included in our name.

Now let's look at what we have. Examples are:

- The Amateur Fruit Society
- The Fruit Hobbyists Society
- The Fruit and Nut Society
- The Home Fruit and Nut Society
- The Home Fruit and Nut Association
- The Home Fruit and Nut Club

With a name such as above, we could include any group in the country, and with a little paper work we could set up chapters anywhere.

I hope I have stimulated a little interest and hope to hear more about this subject from others.

PLANTING IT RIGHT

The use of dynamite in the preparation of the holes for trees requires mention in this connection. Though definitely having its field of usefulness, the use of dynamite should be regarded as a special method to meet special conditions rather than a practice

to be followed as a matter of course. A soil or site inherently unsuited for orchard purposes can not be made suitable for such use by exploding a charge of dynamite in the soil in each tree position.

In fact, under some conditions and if improperly managed such a procedure may prove injurious. Such a condition may be expected if the dynamite is used in a clay subsoil when the latter is too moist. The explosion will then blow a "pot-hole" and compact the surrounding soil instead of loosening or shattering it as is desired. The existence of such a hole may not appear on the surface until at some later time, it may be after the tree has been planted, the surface settles into it.

Perhaps the one unquestioned condition where dynamite may be used advantageously is on a site inherently suited for fruit except that there is a thin stratum of hardpan a short distance below the surface and below which the subsoil is good for fruit growing. In such a case the hardpan may be broken up successfully by the use of a suitable explosive.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above article on preparing tree fruit holes is from the USDA 1925 Agriculture Yearbook. For information on drying dynamite in the family kitchen, consult Sharon Collman, WSU/Snohomish County Extension, 600 126th St SE, Everett 98208.

NEW ZEALAND NASHI A BALLOONING OFF-SEASON FRUIT FOR OUR MARKETS?

by Dr. Porter Lambard, OSU

Nashi is the trade name of Asian pears sold in New Zealand and translates as "pear" in English. While in New Zealand on exchange at Lincoln College, I was able to spend some time with a former student of mine at OSU, Mike Van Workum, who was an exchange student from Lincoln College in 1982. Now he is the principal consultant for Asian pear production. Mike consults with Turners and Browsers Company which is the principal buyer and seller of Asian pears in New Zealand. Mike has traveled to Japan several times and is now the leading authority on Nashi in New Zealand. We should have him come to Oregon for a workshop/seminar in the future.

The first developers of Asian pears in New Zealand decided early on to call Asian pears "Nashi" to be excluded from the Apple and Pear Marketing Board which has the sole authority to market these crops. Now, several companies are selling Nashi besides the Apple and Pear Marketing Board. The industry is only 6 years old, no bearing orchards are older than 6 years. They began exporting Nashi last year and this year about 260 tons were produced of which 70% was exported to the United States in April through June.

The varieties they have selected for production are Shinsui (matures before Shinseiki), Shinseiki, Kosui, Hosui and Nijusseiki (notice the spelling includes a u instead of an i). These are quality varieties they have decided to market and are the only commercial varieties I saw.

They have decided not to follow the Japanese cultural methods entirely, but they do use many similar methods to the Japanese, such as: general pruning technique, early hand thinning of flower clusters and fruit, leaving a mid-fruit on each cluster when thinning, and using color chips to determine harvest time. I saw no pergola training system as in Japan, but the mini tatura (A frame), the Lincoln canopies, or some vertical trellis are generally used. (The Tatura and Lincoln systems are established at the OSU Lewis-Brown Research Farm on Peoria Road and are open for your observation.)

They have had to net their Nashi orchards in New Zealand because of birds feeding on fruit before harvest. The price for trellising is about \$4,100, while netting runs about \$5000 per acre. They haven't bagged their fruit or hand pollinated the fruit as the Japanese have, but they use windbreaks to prevent marked fruit.

The kiwi growers are particular in their pruning. Hosui is a tip bearer which they head prune, while Shinseiki and Nijusseiki are spur bearers and, therefore, spurs older than three years are removed. They have few pest problems: mites, fireblight and pseudomonas (bacterial canker). They use monthly dormant copper sprays beginning after harvest to prevent the bacterial canker blight.

Maturity is determined by color chips, since soluble solids (sugar content) and pressure testing are destructive and are not consistently accurate. Fruit picked at Color #2 and #3 are used for long storage, although the fruit has poor eating quality. Picking fruit at #4 and #5 has been better eating quality with some storage capability. Nashi is picked with clippers into styrofoam boxes in a single layer, transferred to the packing houses where the stems are carefully reclipped, and then the fruit is sorted by weight and packed in polyethylene lined wood boxes.

Irrigation is a must to obtain proper sizes. They are packing fruit sizes of 2.17 to 3.50 inches in diameter.

The principal problems they had this year were:

1. Loss of flower buds during the dormant period in Hosui, particularly in warmer areas. Some thought it was due to the lack of chilling.
2. Flesh spot decay, particularly on Shinseiki and Nijusseiki, which prevented the export of some fruit. Casual factors may be:
 - a. late harvested fruit
 - b. cooling the fruit too quickly (wait a day after harvest)
 - c. a nutritional problem such as magnesium deficiency, and/or
 - d. the Japanese say they have a certain percent (10%) of the fruit which develop the condition no matter what

The kiwi growers are very serious about growing the Nashi and will, no doubt, do an excellent job. However, those problems previously mentioned plus the high cost of production (double the apple production cost) don't seem to slow their interest. We should expect to see Asian pears year-round in the markets because of New Zealand's off-season marketing of Nashi.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The above article was reprinted from the Oregon Asian Pear Council News, an organization which is open to Washington growers. Cost is \$20 initiation fee plus annual dues of \$20. Mail check to Erik Eselius, Treasurer, 18018 S. Skyland Circle, Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034.

SAVE SCIONWOOD FOR SPRING MEETING

Scionwood will again be sold in conjunction with the rootstock sale at the annual spring meeting on March 4th. The price will be \$.50 each. All members are asked to save scions of their favorite varieties, and any others they think members would like to have.

Save only wood from healthy, non-patented varieties. Also, please don't bring wood from Geneva numbered selections. Pick only new wood, preferable about lead pencil size. Label carefully, wrap in plastic bags and store in the refrigerator until the meeting.

Remember, profits from these sales will help to support research at Mt. Vernon.

TIDBITS FROM THE CORE

by Nancy Jo Cushman

Please don't call or write to Dr. Norton at the Mt. Vernon Research Station if you have a tree fruit question. Instead, contact your local extension office or talk to an old timer in WCTFA. Dr. Norton does not have time to answer individual questions, nor is that his job.

Here's a partial list of WCTFA "experts" and their specialties. Believe me, they'll cheerfully talk all day on their favorite subjects.

APPLES

John Parker
60 Tala Shore Dr
Port Ludlow 98365
437-2313

Walt Lyon
19717 80th NE
Bothell 98011
483-5574

Nancy Jo Cushman
9210 131st NE
Lk. Stevens 98258
659-6087

PEARS

Max Meyers
11102 126th AV NW
Gig Harbor 98335
851-4422

Don McDonald
1213 SE Linder Rd
Port Orchard 98366
876-8785

PEACHES, NECTARINES, APRICOTS

Gene Lewis
17052 10th NW
Seattle 98177
542-4664

PLUMS, PRUNES

Dr. Robert Bordeaux
15211 Wash. Av NE
Bainbridge Is 98110
842-4665

NEW BULLETIN!!! - PNW 328
USING HORTICULTURAL SPRAY OILS TO CONTROL
ORCHARD PESTS, available from the Extension
Office or W.S.U. - .50 ea.

GRAPES

Dave Johnson
P. O. Box 1586
Milton 98354
922-2403, 631-9825

Walt Lyon
see apples above

Do we have any experts on cherries or berries? Or did I overlook an expert in the list above? Send your contributions of "old, but know it all" to the newsletter editor. Please be brief.

Actually, most WCTFA members are dedicated and enthusiastic fruit growers and will cheerfully help you find the information you need. For help in planning, starting, grafting and care of your orchard and berry patch, join a local chapter of WCTFA. A list of chapters and contacts is included with the board of directors.

If you want to buy trees rather than graft your own, advice and/or free classes are available from:

Cloud Mountain Nursery
6906 Goodwin Road
Everaon 98247
966-5859

Raintree Nursery
391 Butts Rd
Norton 98356
496-6400

Meyers Maritime Nursery
11102 126th Av NW
Gig Harbor 98335
851-4422

Pete Svynth's Family Nursery
Route 3, Box 172
Vashon 98070
463-3256

Raven Island Nursery
Waldron Island 98297

These are local growers who specialize in fruit trees and berries suited to our Puget Sound climate.

New WCTFA member David Babbitt, 1709 Blaine Av NE in Renton, wants to share a ride with somebody attending Raintree's classes.

In case you're interested in the history of apple growing in western Washington, the November 30th Seattle Weekly has an article entitled "Real Apples, Real Taste" featuring the Merritt, Perkins and Thornton orchards and Dr. Norton from the Mt. Vernon research station.

It's not too late to order scionwood from the Mt. Vernon research station, but orders must be received by January 20th. See the fall newsletter for more information. The Worcester County Horticultural Society, 30 Tower Hill Road, Boylston, MA 01505 has approximately 100 "antique" apple varieties available as scionwood.

One of the side benefits of exhibiting fruit at the All About Fruit Shows is discovering just how many of your varieties are misnamed. I must confess that this used to bother me, but after 20 years of raising some 350 varieties of apple trees I have come to the conclusion that trees get mislabeled even from the best of sources. What really bugs me is when people say that isn't a _____ and then look blank when you ask what is it. I currently have some 6 varieties labeled, ?1, ?2, ?3, which my computer refuses to recognize. We (my computer and I) don't discuss the other 200 varieties which have not been exhibited at fruit shows.

For those of you who wondered where the 93 varieties (mislabeled or not) came from that I exhibited at the fruit show, I have to admit they came from my own "experimental" orchard. I started out raising recommended varieties for western Washington, deviated to historical varieties and got side tracked on names such as Green Cheese and Watermelon. I look forward to exhibiting my recently grafted Bottle Greening and Lowland Raspberry apples in future fruit shows, hopefully they are true to name. Now, if anyone could supply scionwood for the Green Cheese apple...

My apologies for the late appearance of this newsletter. Old age is creeping up on me and I have had back problems for the last month. I do realize that John Parker managed to organize a fruit show, have a gall bladder operation and attend the next board meeting two weeks later. But they really don't make 'em like John anymore.

WCTFA '88 FRUIT SHOW INVENTORY

The following list inventories the number of "plates" of a specific variety that were displayed in our show. An entry with no number following it was in a single display. An asterisk means that this variety was not shown in 1987.

APPLES showed surprising changes from last year. When you consider that most of our exhibitors are the same from year to year it is thought provoking to see ninety-three apple varieties that were not shown in 1987 out of a total inventory (including "sports") of 249 varieties. Even more curious was McIntosh (including Wijcik) showing up in thirteen displays when it was not listed last year.

Those varieties of apples with five plates or more (counting "sports") included, Jonagold (14), McIntosh (13), Gala (13), Macoun (11), Gravenstein (10), Northern Spy (9), Spartan (9), Tompkin's King (9), Elstar (8), Akane (7), Mutsu (7), Hudson's Golden Gem (7), Esopus Spitzenburg (7), Baldwin (7), Golden Delicious (6), Liberty (6), Jonathan (6), Cox's Orange Pippin (6), Chehalis (6), and (5) including Bramley Seedling, Grimes Golden, Idared, Jonamac, Binta, Summerred, and Winter Banana. For you statistical folks, thirty varieties shown in 1987 were not displayed this year, the biggest surprise probably being Duchess of Oldenburg. It is very important to remember that many early varieties cannot be successfully stored for showing in late October, so please do not judge them by their involvement in this inventory.

As a personal bias I was glad to see Hudson's Golden Gem and Binta in the showing. Dr. Robert Nitschke (Southmeadow Fruit Gardens founder and THE mentor for many persons interested in good tasting fruit) was a surprise attendee at our show and shared with us his opinion of Binta. Bob said, "it is really great, and one of my favorites". My wife, not a real apple lover, agrees.

PEARS added twenty-eight new out of thirty-six shown. They were well spread around the exhibit area too, showing a more universal interest than in previous years. Only three pear varieties were displayed last year that were not inventoried for 1988. Also note an increasing number of oriental pears.

GRAPES had twenty-three varieties entered in 1987 and sixteen in 1988.

Dave Battley - Monte Vista Farm, Snoqualmie Washington

1988 WCTFA FRUIT SHOW VARIETY LIST (*=NOT ON '87 LIST)

APPLES

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| AKANE 7 | FALL RUBSET * |
| AKERO * | FAMEUSE (SNOW) 4 |
| ALEXANDER 4 | FAYETTE |
| ALKMENE 2 | FIRMGOLD * |
| ANOKA * | FLORINA * |
| ARKANSAS BLACK 2 * | FREEDOM 4 |
| ARLET * | FREYBERG 2 * |
| ASHMEAD'S KERNEL 4 | FUJI REDSPORT 2 |
| BALDWIN 7 | GALA 8 |
| BELLE DE BOSKOOP 4 | GALA (ROYAL) 5 |
| BEN DAVIS * | GARLAND |
| BIETIGHEIMER 2 | GEORGE CARPENTER * |
| BLAIRMONT | GEYER'S ROSE 2 |
| BLACK BILLIFLOWER 3 | GLOCKENAPFEL * |
| BLACKJON | GLORIA MUNDI |
| BLNHEIM ORANGE * | GLORIE VAN HOLLAND * |
| BLUE PEARMAIN | GLOSTER |
| BRAEBURN * | GOLDEN DELICIOUS 6 |
| BRAMLEY SEEDLING 5 | GOLDEN NOBLE 2 |
| BROWN RUBSET * | GOLDEN PEARMAIN 2 |
| BUCKLEY GIANT 2 | GOLDEN RUBSET 2 |
| BURBUNDY 4 | GOLDEN SWEET * |
| CALVILLE BLANC D'HIVER 3 | GOUDREINETTE * |
| CHEHALIS 6 | GRANNY HURST * |
| CHENANGO STRAWBERRY | GRAVENSTEIN 4 |
| CHERRY COX | GRAVENSTEIN (CANDYSTRIPE) * |
| CHISEL JERBEY | GRAVENSTEIN (RED) 3 |
| COAT'S JERBEY | GRAVENSTEIN (SHEETS) |
| COLORA YORK (IMPERIAL) * | GRAVENSTEIN (STARR) * |
| CORTLAND 2 | GREASY KING * |
| COOS RIVER BEAUTY * | GRIMES GOLDEN 5 |
| COURT PENDU FLAT * | GROVE 2 |
| COX'S ORANGE PIPPIN 5 | HARALSON |
| CRITERION 4 | HARRY MASTER'S JERSEY |
| DAVEY 3 | HAWAII 4 |
| DELICIOUS (RED) 2 | HENRY'S GOLDEN KEEPER |
| DELICIOUS (STARKRIMSON) * | (NANCY CUSHMAN MET HENRY!) |
| DISCOVERY 3 | HOLIDAY |
| DODD | HOLSTEIN 3 |
| DREW'S RED 2 | HOWGATE WONDER |
| DUTCH MIGNONNE | HUBBARDSTON NONESUCH 2 |
| DYER (POMME ROYALE) * | HUDSON'S GOLDEN GEM 7 |
| EGREMONT RUBSET | IDARED 3 |
| ELSTAR 8 | INGRID MARIE * |
| EMPIRE * | JAMES GRIEVE * |
| ENGLES FAVORITE 2 * | JEFFERIS 3 |
| EPICURE * | JEFFERS RUBSET * |
| ERWIN BAUER | JONAGOLD 14 |
| ESOPUS SPITZENBURG 7 | JONALICIOUS (STARK) 2 * |
| ETHEL'S SPECIAL * | JONAMAC 5 |
| EVE'S DELIGHT | JONARED |
| FALL PIPPIN | JONATHAN 5 |

JONWIN 3
 KANDIL BINAP
 KARMIJNI *
 KEEPSAKE
 KIDD'S ORANGE RED 3
 KING DAVID *
 KINGSTON BLACK *
 KLAMATH RIVER *
 KNIPEP
 LADY 2
 LAXTON SUPERB
 LIBERTY 6
 LOBO *
 LORD LAMBOURNE *
 LORD'S SEEDLING *
 MACFREE
 MACOUN 11
 MAIDEN BLUSH
 MCINTOSH 9 *
 MCINTOSH (DEWAR'S) *
 MCINTOSH (SUMMERLAND RED) *
 MCMAHON *
 MCSHAY *
 MANITOBA SPY 2
 MANTET *
 MARGIL *
 MELBA *
 MELROSE 10
 MERTON PIPPIN *
 MERTON PROLIFIC *
 MERTON WORCESTER
 MICHELIN
 MIO *
 MOLLIE'S DELICIOUS *
 MONROE 2
 MOTHER 2
 MULTNOMAH 3
 MUTSU 7
 NEWMAC *
 NEWTOWN PIPPIN
 (SEE YELLOW NEWTON)
 NEW YORK 315 *
 NEW YORK 4408-11 2
 NEW YORK 428 2 *
 NEW YORK 429 2
 NEW YORK 543 *
 NEW YORK 694 *
 NITTANY
 NORFOLK ROYAL *
 NORTHERN SPY 7
 NORTHERN SPY (EARLY) 1
 (PROBABLY SOME OF 7)
 NORTHERN SPY (RED) *
 NOVA EASYGROW
 OHIO NONPAREIL 2
 OLYMPIC *
 OLYMPIC QUEEN *
 OPALESCENT 4
 ORTLEY
 OREI
 ORENCO
 ORIN *
 ORIOLE
 ORLEANS REINETTE *
 PALMER GREENING
 (WASHINGTON ROYAL)
 PALOUBE
 PARADISE SWEET *
 PAR FECT CRITERION *
 PAULARED 3
 PCB-29 (SUMMERLAND) *
 PECK FLEASANT *
 PINK PEARL 3
 PITMABTON PINEAPPLE
 POMME RAIGIN *
 PORTER 2
 POUND SWEET
 PRAIRIE SPY *
 PRIMA 4
 RAMBO 2
 RED BARON
 RED CANADA 3
 RED RED ROME
 RED ROME
 RED ROME (IMPROVED)
 RHODE ISLAND GREENING 3
 RIBSTON PIPPIN
 ROB ROY (MCINTOSH)
 ROME
 ROUNDTREE SWEET 2
 ROXBURY RUBBET 2
 RUBBETED SPY *
 SALOME
 SANDOW *
 SEIKOICHI
 SHEEPNOSE
 SHINKO *
 SIGNE TILLISCH *
 SINTA 5
 SMITH RIVER GREEN *
 SMOKEHOUSE
 SNOW (SEE FAMEUSE)
 SPARTAN 9
 SPENCER 2
 SPIGOLD 4
 STARK BLUSHING GOLDEN *
 STARK EARLISLAZE
 STARK JUMBO 2
 STAYMAN WINEBAP (DICKIE STRAIN) *
 STEARNS 2
 STRAWBERRY *
 SUMMERRED 5

SUMMER TREAT (NJ49)
 SUNSET
 BUTTON BEAUTY 2
 SWAAR
 SWEET ARMOGAARD *
 SWEET BOUGH *
 SWEET SIXTEEN 2
 SWISS RED *
 TOKOKU #4 *
 TOKO *
 TOLMAN SWEET 2
 TOMPKIN'S KING 7
 TWENTY OUNCE 2
 TYDEMAN'S RED
 VICTORY *
 VIKING
 WAGENER 3
 WALDRON *
 WEALTHY
 WEALTHY (RED) 2
 WESTFIELD SEEK NO FURTHER
 WHITE PIPPIN
 WHITE WINTER PEARMAN 2
 WIJCIK (MCINTOSH) 2 *
 WILLIAM CRUMP *
 WINEGAP
 WINSTON
 WINTER BANANA 5
 WINTER GRAVENSTEIN *
 WINTER GREEN
 (PROBABLY MUTSU)
 WOLF RIVER 3
 WORCESTER *
 WORCESTER PEARMAN *
 YELLOW BELLFLOWER 2
 YELLOW NEWTON 3
 YORK IMPERIAL *
 ZABERGAU REINETTE *

PEARS

ATLANTIC QUEEN *
 BARTLETT *
 BARTLETT (BAGLEY RUBBET) *
 BEURRE' HARDY *
 BEURRE' LE DRUN *
 BEURRE' SUPERFIN *
 BOBC 2
 CHOJURO 4 *
 COMICE 7
 CONFERENCE 3
 DANA HOVEY *
 D'ANJOU *
 DUCHESS D'ANGOULENE 2
 DUMONT
 ELIZABETH *

FLEMISH BEAUTY 2
 FORELLE *
 FROST *
 HIGHLAND 2 *
 KIEFER *
 LAWRENCE *
 LEDIPONT *
 MONCHALLARD *
 ORCAS *
 PACKHAM'S TRIUMPH 2
 RESCUE 3 *
 SECKEL 3 *
 SHELDON *
 SHINKOI *
 SHINSEIHO *
 SHINSEIKI *
 STARK DELICIOUS 3 *
 TWENTIETH CENTURY *
 (NIJISSEIKI)
 VICAR OF WINKFIELD *
 (WINDFIELD ON CARD)
 WINTER BARTLETT
 WINTER NELLIS *

GRAPES

ALDEN
 CANDICE SEEDLESS 2
 GLENORA *
 HIMROD *
 INTERLAKEN
 ISLAND BELLE *
 (CAMPBELL'S EARLY)
 LAKEMONT
 LYNDEN BLUE
 MC CAMPBELL *
 MOORED
 MULLER THURGAU
 NEW YORK MUSCAT *
 OKANOGAN RIESLING
 SCHUYLER 2
 BUFFOLK RED *
 WHITE DIAMOND

OTHER

CHAENOMELES
 (FLOWERING QUINCE)
 KIWI (ACTINIDEA ARGUTA)
 KIWI (ACTINIDEA CHINESE)
 HAYWARD
 KIWI (ACTINIDEA POLYGAMA)
 QUINCE
 PLUM (BRADSHAW)

TIPS ON BUYING FRUIT TREES

by Nancy Jo Cushman

Rule number one and the most important to remember is never buy a fruit tree that is not labeled with a numbered rootstock. Terms such as semi-dwarf or dwarf don't mean much since there are no standards and rootstocks that produce approximately the same size tree may require completely different growing conditions.

Become familiar with the generally offered rootstock. Mike Michel wrote an excellent description of the various rootstocks in the summer 1985 issue of WCTFA.

APPLE

- M-27 container or small tree to 6 feet--needs trunk support with fruit load--slow to go dormant so not completely hardy in colder areas--recent studies indicate it promotes earlier ripening
- P-22 size comparable to M-27--supposedly hardier--needs trunk support--new, not well tested yet
- M-9 old style complete with viruses--8 to 10 feet--excellent choice for spindle and hedge rows--requires support, good ground, irrigation
- EMLA 9 new style with viruses removed--same size as M-26 with none of the advantages--this is the only "M" number where there is a difference between "M" and "EMLA"
- Marc new, not well tested--probably will be same size as M-26 (15 feet) in our area--probably will need support
- M-26 probably best bet for free standing, moderate size central leader tree--needs staking when young and don't let leader bend with fruit load--15 feet or so--fairly trouble free
- M-7 best bet for problem soils--but is large, 75% of standard size, and is not an early bearer like the smaller rootstock--free standing

My favorite rootstocks, at this time, are P-22 (you can cram a lot of trees in a small area with 3-foot spacing) and M-9s in a hedge row--easiest system to manage. I do have a lot of free standing M-26 trees, but find trellised trees much easier to work with. The M-27 trees that survived a very sudden cold snap in November (not everyone lives near Granite Falls) have proved very satisfactory. They do resemble the fruit trees you see pictured in fancy catalogues.

PEARS

Quince several different ones are used--generally dwarf about 50%--not cold hardy--not compatible with a lot of pear varieties so an interstem is required

OHXF there's a whole series--333 is generally used--dwarfs 50%--cold hardy--no incompatibility problems

Don't plant quince rootstock unless you live in a very mild area. Even fairly mature trees have been winter killed at my place.

STONE FRUIT

Pixie 35% of seedling size, hardy, precocious, not compatible with peaches

Citation best bet for peaches, but hard to obtain--50% of standard size

St. Julian A 10 to 15 feet tall--adaptable--compatible

Talk to Gene Lewis, 542-4664, if you have any questions.

CHERRIES

Colt 60% of standard size--fairly adaptable to wet soils

GM 61 available from Raintree Nursery--new--15 foot tree--adaptable

Mazzard (standard size) rootstock is available with a dwarfing interstem. Don't buy cherry trees labeled semi dwarf. They probably have Mahaleb rootstock which does not tolerate our wet soils and does not get to be full size, just slower growing (if it survives).

Confused? Simply sit down, figure out what size tree you want and what training system you want to use and pick out the best rootstock for your needs. Do remember that rootstock dwarfs a percentage of the variety grafted on to it. And varieties, like people, come in different sizes. Vigorous varieties, like Mutsu and Gravenstein, should be grafted a size smaller and natural dwarfs like Discovery should be grafted on M-7 or larger. No, we don't have a complete list of apple sizes, but a partial list compiled by Dr. Norton is available from extension offices.

Varieties are more a matter of personal choice. It's best to taste them first, of course, but if that isn't feasible stick to recommended varieties for our area. Do remember that varieties that grow well in eastern Washington or other warm climates probably won't do well here. But we can grow Jonagold very well and they can't. Do be cautious about planting some of the recommended late season varieties if you live in colder regions of Puget Sound.

Decide whether you want to spray or not. As a general rule, the homeowner can tolerate insect damage in our area, but diseases here can be devastating due to wet springs. If you don't want to spray, it's best to pick disease resistant varieties--lists are available in extension bulletins. Think about how tolerant you want to be. Some of my most favorite eating apples are Cox crosses which will crack, scab and do everything else possible in poor years regardless of what you do.

Keep in mind that in our climate apples are easiest to grow, followed by pears and Asian pears, plums and prunes, cherries, peaches, apricots and nectarines. Remember that most fruit requires cross pollination from a different variety (lists available) and bees are needed for pollination (be careful with your insecticide sprays).

One year-old whips (unbranched trees) are cheaper, easier to transport and plant, establish better, and are easier to train to whatever system you plan to use. Eight-foot well branched trees might look nice in the nursery, but they aren't very practical if you plan to espalier fruit trees against a 6-foot wall. Best bet is to buy a young tree, plant it properly (spread roots, graft at soil line), don't prune or fertilize much and get it into production. In our climate, we tend to raise trees, not fruit, if we don't pay attention.

As a general rule, I don't like trees with multiple grafts--more than one variety per tree. This complicates the record keeping and makes pruning very difficult. Invariably you end up with one side of the tree outgrowing the other or forget and prune out one variety. John Parker has a nice story about one of his trees which has an early bearing variety on one side and a late variety on the other. As soon as he harvested the early variety, the tree fell over. I much prefer to use smaller rootstock and have each variety on its own rootstock.

Can't find what you want? Do check out the local growers listed under "Tidbits from the Core" in this issue. Do make suggestions to your local nursery if you're not satisfied with what they offer. Or fight back and make your own trees. WCTFA and many of its chapters have rootstock and scionwood for sale and have grafting classes as well. For a couple of bucks you can create your own tree and watch it grow.

EDITOR'S NOTE: I do consider myself an expert on what not to do when growing fruit trees in the Puget Sound region. After some 20 years of experimenting with different rootstocks, varieties and training systems (mostly apple), my best recommendation is to buy a cider press, a horse and get some teenagers to dispose of any mistakes. A cider press involves the least effort.

ROOTSPOCK TIME

If you would like to put in an order for rootstock to be picked up at the spring meeting on March 4, 1989, now is the time.

We have on order:

- 400 MARK Apple
- 300 P-22 Apple
- 300 EM 9 Apple
- 100 PIXIE Plum
- 100 Citation Plum and Peaches

In addition we can get small quantities of M 26 and M 7A.

Was unable to get any OHXF 333 for pears this year. Carlton didn't have any and every other nursery I have contacted was already sold out. However, I have already ordered 200 for next year and believe we will get them.

A brief description:

- MARK - approximate size of EMLA 26, hardy, free-standing and precocious.
- P-22 - approximate size of EMLA 27, hardy, resistant to some diseases, precocious, but not self-supporting.
- PIXIE - about 35% of seedling size, hardy precocious, not compatible with peaches, but does well with all plum varieties.
- CITATION - about 50% of seedling size, compatible with plums and peaches.

Those of you who came to the last open house at Mt. Vernon on Oct. 21 may remember tasting an apple named Karmijn De Sonnaville. I think most everyone who tasted it was favorably impressed. Through Warren Manhart we have managed to get from Carlton 140 trees of it. These are grafted on M 9, and are graded into three sizes, 3/8", 1/2", and 5/8". The 3/8" will sell for \$6.00, the 1/2" for \$6.50 and the 5/8" for \$7.00. If interested in any of these trees please include on your rootstock order, and you can pick them up with the rootstock at the spring meeting on March 4.

ROOTSTOCK ORDER BLANK

PRICES: MARK & P-22 \$1.75 each, \$15 for 10, 25 or more \$1.25 each
 EM 9, M7A, M26 and Citation - \$1.50 each, \$12 for 10, 25 or more \$1 each
 PIXIE - \$2 each.

	<u>No.</u>	<u>Cost</u>		<u>No.</u>	<u>Cost</u>		<u>No.</u>	<u>Size</u>	<u>Cost</u>
MARK	_____	_____	M26	_____	_____	KARMIJN	_____	_____	_____
P-22	_____	_____	M7A	_____	_____	Sub-total	_____	_____	_____
EM9	_____	_____	PIXIE	_____	_____	Tax (7.8%)	_____	_____	_____
			CITATION	_____	_____	Total	_____	_____	_____

Your name, address and phone number _____

Please fill out the form and return with check (made out to WCTFA) which must include sales tax. Mail to Walter L. Lyon, 19717 80th NE, Bothell, WA 98011, (206)483-5574.



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|---|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Fruit Growers | <input type="checkbox"/> Garden Fruit Growers |

your suggestion

Please designate your favorites by number--1 being your first choice. Mail to Paul Donaldson, WCTFA Secretary, 916 NW 122nd St, Seattle 98177 or return to any board member.