Saturday, January 27, 1917]



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North Carolina Experiment Station Reports on a Variety Test Extending Over a Period of Nine Years

N THE fall of 1915, eight year from setting, a report was made on the first commercial crop produced in orchards under experimental tests. Trees of three varieties produced a few nuts three years after planting; the fourth year there were nuts on several varieties; the fifth year several trees bore a pound of nuts each, some 11/2 pounds, and one tree bore 21/2 pounds; the sixth year a late spring frost caught the new growth just as it was putting out, and there was no crop; the seventh year there were 50 pounds of nuts gathered from 300 trees; the eighth year the crop was 830 pounds.

The nuts were divided into two grades, according to size and filling quality; a 40-cent grade included Stuart, Schley, Van Deman and Moneymaker, and a 30-cent grade was made up of smaller varieties. In spite of the market being full of low-priced nuts, these high-class varieties sold very readily at 40 cents a pound.

The 1915 crop was so much larger than any preceding one that it was expected that the trees would not bear many the following year. However, most of the trees set a goodly crop of nuts in 1916.

A Number of Varieties Worthless

FTER making up the records in 1915, it was found that a number of varieties were worthless for commercial purposes, and they were topworked, with the exception of one or two trees of each variety as a record. The following varieties were found to be too small in size in this section for commercial purposes : Louisiana, Delzell, Senator, Teche, Dewey, and Atlanta. The Frotscher, Nelson, Magnum, and Rome, under its many synonyms, Pride of the Coast, Twentieth Century, and Columbian varieties, though producing nuts of large size, were found to be very deficient in filling out. Georgia Giant proved to be so susceptible to scab that it was utterly worthless. Centennial proved to be such a shy bearer that while it produced a good nut it was practically of no value as a variety.

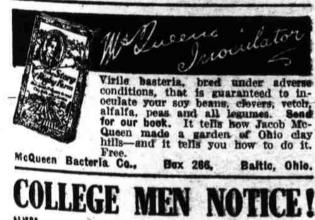


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Some Results Obtained

THOUGH the top-working of these inferior varieties reduced the fruiting trees of 1916 by 25 per cent, the crop for the season was 695 pounds, as compared with 830 pounds for the previous year. In 1916 one Stuart tree produced 20 pounds of nuts, another of the same variety produced 18, and a Schley produced 15 pounds. The average for the whole orchard, consisting of 160 bearing trees in 1916, was 4 pounds and 5 ounces; or an average of about \$1.50 per tree. In 1915 the average of 207 trees was 4 pounds per tree. It can be seen, therefore, that in spite of the large yield of the 1915 season, the average production per-tree was higher in 1916. Some of the trees produced \$5 worth of nuts, and the crop of a few other trees approached closely to \$8 in value.

The Schley and the Stuart varieties were found to be the most desirable sorts for all purposes. Both of these produced good-sized nuts that are well filled with meat, and they are recommended for planting anywhere in the Coastal Plain section of the state, where the soil is well drained and well tilled, so that it will produce good corn and cotton. It was noted through the tests that the trees on well drained land produced better results than where they were not on well drained spots.

Experiments on the Piedmont Substation show that no varieties of Southern origin are suitable for the section. It is possible that some Northern varieties may prove suitable, but further trials are necessary to give definite data.—North Carolina Experiment Station.

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