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① AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE ②
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA - U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101

MINNESOTA FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, Number 1. ③

November 1967

Dear Fruit Grower:

A Newsletter can play an important role in furthering communication between you, a fruit grower in Minnesota and the research and extension staff of the Horticulture Department at the University of Minnesota. Although this is the first letter, I do expect the newsletter to be a continuing project. If at any time you have comments concerning its contents, or desire to incorporate items in a particular issue, please feel free to contact me.

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ANNUAL MEETING PLANS

Plans are under way for the joint annual convention of the Wisconsin Apple and Horticulture Council and the Minnesota Fruit Growers Association. The two groups will meet jointly on November 29, 30, and December 1 at the Holiday Inn #2 in Madison, Wisconsin.

The following items, however, should receive top priority in preparing for the meeting:

1. Obtain room reservations at the earliest possible date. A "reservation request" has been enclosed, but of course other motels or hotels are available.
2. Be sure to enter the box and plate exhibits.



This archival publication may not reflect current scientific knowledge or recommendations.
Current information available from University of Minnesota Extension: <http://www.extension.umn.edu>.

Remember, this will be the only meeting this year, and you can't afford to miss this function.

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NEW STAFF MEMBERS

C. Stushnoff joined the staff of the Department of Horticulture on July 1. He is responsible for fruit breeding, culture research, and teaching.

Stushnoff came to the University from Rutgers University where he worked with blueberry breeding problems. He holds a B.S. and M.Sc. from the University of Saskatchewan and a Ph.D. degree from the State University of Rutgers.

Mr. and Mrs. Stushnoff and their daughter, Shawna, will be living in St. Paul and look forward to making new friends in Minnesota.

Harold M. Pellett joined the staff on September 1, 1966. He is responsible for the research and teaching in nursery management. In addition, he will supervise the Fruit Breeding Farm and Arboretum, a position formely held by Ted Weir.

Harold grew up in a wholesale-retail nursery operation. He holds B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University. Prior to coming to Minnesota, he conducted the highway research program on woody plants for the University of Nebraska.

Harold, his wife Shelby, and the children are presently residing at the Fruit Breeding Farm. We are happy to welcome them to Minnesota.

Leonard Hertz began work as an Extension Horticulturist in the Department of Horticulture last July 1. He will focus his attention on fruit problems and on pesticide problems related to horticultural crops and materials. This is essentially a new position which combines more attention to the fruit industry in Minnesota with the pesticide work done by Neil Miles, who left the staff a year ago. Hertz is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and brings to this assignment an excellent background of six years' work with Niagara Chemical Division, specializing in pesticide problems in horticulture with special emphasis on fruit, and five years at Kansas State University specializing on agronomic phases of crop production.

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APPLE NOTES

Minnesota Apple Crop

According to the Crop Reporting Service, it is estimated that Minnesota will produce approximately 400,000 bushels of apples in 1967. This is a significant reduction from last years production.

Reports on pick-out from some areas of production, indicate that extreme environmental factors, particularly hail, tended to reduce the volume of saleable crop. Quality and color, are generally good in most areas and consumer demand for the product has been excellent.

Mouse Control

Mice cause serious economic loss to apple growers every year. This loss appears in the form of root pruning and trunk and root girdling.



Several management practices can be employed to reduce mouse damage. These include:

1. Construction of "hardware cloth" tree guards using 1/4 inch mesh.
2. Utilization of pea sized gravel or cinders around the base of the trees, at a depth of 4-6 inches.
3. Keeping the orchard cover or sod short.

When correctly used, poisoned baits for mouse control do not cause undue hazard to other forms of animal life.

Use either apple cubes or grain bait which have been treated with zinc phosphide. The most effective period of application is just before snow cover develops and the fruit rotted. Spot treatment during the winter and into early spring is recommended.

Sincerely yours,

Leonard B. Hertz
Extension Horticulturist

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Enclosure