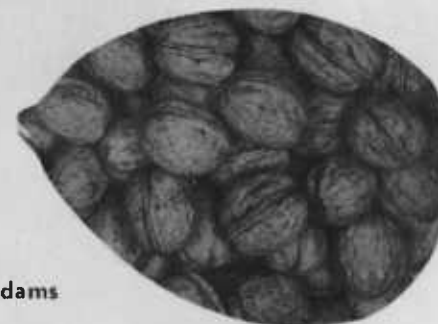
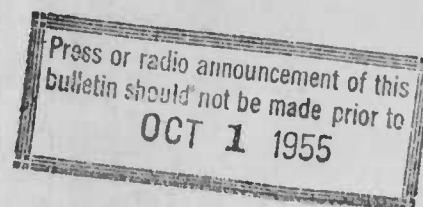


The Adams Walnut



Franquette



Adams

Quentin Zielinski and Henry Hartman

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The Adams Walnut

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A new English walnut variety, now officially named Adams, is being released as worthy of commercial trial. While this variety is comparatively new, and has undergone only limited testing, it is being made available now because of widespread interest in a variety of this type.

Origin

The originator of this walnut is Moses P. Adams of Salem, Oregon, through whose efforts and generosity it is being released without restrictions. According to Mr. Adams, the variety is an open-pollinated seedling, whose seed came from a tree of Bureau of Plant Industry (U.S.D.A.) introduction No. 18256. It was introduced from China by the United States Department of Agriculture in 1906. Mr. Adams planted the seed in 1933 and the original tree stands on the Adams property in Polk County, Oregon. To all appearances, it is a pure form of English Walnut, Juglans regia Linn.

Mr. Adams, over a period of years, kept detailed records of the performance of the original tree and considerable information was amassed as a result of these efforts. In 1952 Mr. Adams unreservedly relinquished the variety to the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station for further testing and possible introduction if the seedling continued to give promise. This was stipulated in a written agreement which designates the Department of Horticulture at Oregon State College as custodian of the variety in the interest of the walnut industry. Release at this time is in accordance with the provisions of that agreement.

Characteristics

The Adams walnut appears to possess a number of desirable characteristics. Since the original tree came into bearing, it has consistently matured its crop from 12 to 14 days ahead of Franquette, the leading commercial variety in Oregon. Its nuts are distinctly larger in size than those of Franquette. The original tree has remained comparatively free of walnut blight although it has not been sprayed for blight control.

The variety gives some indication of being fairly hardy to winter cold, having withstood the severe freezes of 1935 and 1950 without damage. The original tree has shown no serious weaknesses. Walnut authorities are impressed by its vigor, its well spaced branches, and its freedom from dead wood.

As compared to those of other sorts, nuts of the Adams variety are well formed and are fairly well sealed. The shells are strong but are not excessively hard. The meats are thick and well flavored and are less inclined to shrivel than those of Franquette. The percentage of fill is considerably higher than that of Franquette, thus resulting in a high kernel yield. The bleaching quality of the nuts appears to be good.

Limitations

It should be pointed out that while the Adams walnut appears to be worthy of commercial trial, its ultimate status as a variety cannot be predicted on the basis of the limited tests so far conducted. Its final rating as a commercial variety must await further trial under a wide range of cultural conditions. Moreover, it must await the time when its trade and consumer acceptance has been fully established.

A possible fault of the variety is a certain tendency for its meats to be darker in color than are those of Franquette. The variety, however, is classified as a light-meated sort and is not to be confused with varieties that naturally produce dark meats under all conditions. On actual tests, the Adams walnut has graded out to a fairly high percentage of light meats when harvested promptly and dried within a short time thereafter.

Another possible fault of the variety is a tendency to bloom and leaf out a few days ahead of Franquette. This might make it a little more susceptible to spring frost in some locations and during some seasons.

Planting Stock

Neither the Department of Horticulture nor the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station will have trees of the Adams variety for general distribution. Growers interested in obtaining trees or scion wood should contact nurserymen who are now propagating the variety or who will do so in the near future. The Experiment Station will have a limited quantity of scion wood for distribution in 1956 to those who may want to start propagating the variety or who may be interested in making a few grafts for testing purposes. Arrangements to obtain this scion wood should be made through local county agricultural agents.