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Spring 1910

Some New Fruits

Originated by N. E. Hansen in the Fruit-Breeding Laboratory of the South Dakota Agricultural Experiment Station

and

Some New Alfalfas

Found in Northern Eurasia by

N. E. HANSEN

Professor of Horticulture in the South Dakota State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, and Agricultural Explorer for the United States Department of Agriculture.

Opata (Sioux Indian for “boquet”), first sent out in spring of 1908. The restrictions as to propagation are now removed as it promises to be a great acquisition. One year old trees sent to many places when first introduced bore freely the following year. Female parent, Dakota Sandcherry (Prunus Besseyi); male parent, the Gold Plum, a very large hybrid Japanese plum originated by Luther Burbank. Opata is a vigorous plum tree in habit with large glossy foliage. Forms fruit buds freely on one year old shoots in nursery. Fruit, 1 and 3/16 inch diameter, dark purplish-red with blue bloom, flesh green, flavor a mingling of the sprightliness of the sand cherry with the rich sweetness of the Gold plum, quality delicious, skin thin and free from acerbetiy, pit very small, season extremely early. Stock limited, consisting of 147 two year transplanted trees and 46 one year buds. Price $1.00 each.

Scions for grafting, 5 feet for $1.00; 50 feet or more, 8 cents per foot. Total stock of scions, 2481 feet. Scions are intended mainly for expert nurserymen, as in the hands of amateurs they will usually give disappointment only.

Special Note—To give these Sioux Indian names their native melody, pronounce the vowel A with the long Italian A, as in “arm.”

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SANSOTO AND CHERESOTO.

(Hybrids of Sand Cherry and De Soto Plum).

Female parent sand cherry, (Prunus Besseyi); male parent De Soto, a well known standard variety of native plum (Prunus Americana) from southwestern Wisconsin. In the fall of 907 thirteen of my seedlings of this pedigree were under propagation in the station nursery. All these trees made strong growth in the nursery, some five feet in height, stocky, well branched and formed abundant fruit buds the first year. These seedlings have borne heavily the past season and some of them combined the bad qualities of both parents in quality of fruit and large size of pit. However, others show promise of value as a late market plum as they fruited heavily here this year when native plums were almost a total failure.

Two of them will now be named, Sansoto and Cheresoto (made up from the words sand cherry and De Soto). The fruit is shown in herewith. The fruit of Sansoto is round while that of Cheresoto is longish with a minute bristle or prickle at apex which it no doubt inherits from the sand cherry. The varieties are much alike in fruit but differ somewhat in shape. The size is about one and three-eights inch in diameter; color black when fully ripe, with blue bloom; flesh cling, yellowish green, sprightly, pleasant; skin
WHAT SHALL WE DO FOR HARDY CHERRIES? This is one of my favorite problems but one still unsolved. The range of acclimatization for these plants varies greatly. I have often seen cherries as hardy as Seckel and others which with their rich flesh and lovely red color will compare favorably with California cherries. Many different forms of cherry have been propagated and grown on the Pacific Coast and they have all been disappointing. But the rich purple color which gives the Russian Plums such a decided advantage is probably unique. Price, transplanted plants, each $1.00. Total stock, 2000.


WACHAMPAN

(Siberian Indian for "hood cherry"). Total stock of transplanted trees, 25 each, 1.00. Price, each 1.00. Total stock, 2000.

CIRISTA PURPLE LEAF SAND CHERRY. An evergreen for Landscape Gardens. Cirista (the Russian Indian name for "tulip"). First introduced in Minnesota State Fair in 1909, in 1910 it was given its name, the Cirista. The Cirista is a handsome plant with deep purple leaves and flowered freely in 1909 in many places and attracted great attention as a new ornamental. Cirista is a seedling plant at the Montana State Fair in 1909. Price, one year old trees, $1.00. Total stock available, 2500. Cirista is a very early sand cherry and De Soto in looks and flavor, having the size of the De Soto and the color of the sand cherry. The fruit is said to be a vigorous plum tree.

HARDY STRAWBERRIES. An immense number of strawberry seedlings have been raised at this Station in the last few years and many more have been obtained from the United States Department of Agriculture. Fruit of good size; plant has proven productive and hardy even with proper protection of fruit during winter. A few trees of Purple B and Purple C, the other two of the trio of the Finnish Currants, have been raised at this Station. These trees are three years old, transplanted when one year old, and four to six feet in height. 50.00 per dozen.

SAPAS. (Sioux Indian word for "black"). Offered spring 1908 for the first time (Silesia, Bohemia). The female parent is one of our selected seedlings of the western sand cherry (Prunus Besseyi) a swamp type, that of the same species. Female parent, De Soto, a very large, purple-fleshed Japanese plum originated by Luther Burbank of California and by him named the Sultan. This Sultan is a hybrid of the Alumroot and and is perhaps one with other parent. The tree is a fine leaf & habit: one year trees now only (first year). The fruit has the large, dark purple skin, thin rich dark purple pulp. The fruit of the year 2 and 3 is red, firm, and free from acerbity. The fruit is a perfect mingling of the sand cherry and De Soto in looks and flavor, having the size of the De Soto and the color of the sand cherry. It has been named. Price, one year seedlings, three for $1.00; transplanted from the nursery bed, 6 to 7 feet, two for $1.00, ten for $4.00. Price, each $1.00. Total stock, 1000.

CHOICE PURE NATIVE PLUMS. Now native plums—About six thousand native plum seedlings have been fruiting here and some of the best of them have been propagated for limited trial elsewhere. Three of these are available for limited trial elsewhere. Price, each $1.00. Total stock available, 5000. The fruit is much larger than that of the De Soto and much larger than the De Soto and the color of the sand cherry. It has been named. Price, each $1.00. Total stock, 1000.
other two species were obtained on my third trip to Siberia in 1908-9. All three bear yellow flowers. My own estimate of these new alfalfas is that they will extend the alfalfa belt on this continent as far north as we wish to farm. Also that they will be needed mainly in regions where our common alfalfa, native of the mild region between India and the Mediterranean Sea, is subject to winter-killing. Russian experience shows that the yellow flowered Medicago falcata stands pasturing much better that the common alfalfa.

So far seed from the 1906 trip has not been available in sufficient quantity for the Experiment Stations, let alone the multitude of private planters eager to test them. My correspondence indicates the intense and wide interest for the Experiment Stations, let alone the multitude of private planters.

In the work of propagating alfalfa plants by transplanting for the sub-stations at Highmore, Eureka, and Cottonwood, a small surplus was raised which is now offered for the first time. The plants are all twice transplanted from flats and pots. They will be sold in bunches of twenty-five (25) with some of the inoculated soil in which they grew. Price, packed ready for shipment, 25 plants for $2.50; 100 for $8.00.

In South Dakota they will be sent only to those agreeing to enter into co-operation with the station in this alfalfa-testing work, in charge of Prof. C. Willis, Chief of the Agronomy Department of this station. Planters living on one branch must make the same agreement with me so that I may lay the report to the United States Department of Agriculture. They will be sold in memory of figures, hence I have the new alfalfa names instead of numbers.

These alfalfa plants should be planted three to four feet apart each way in good garden soil and given thorough cultivation. This will encourage the free production of seed.

3. Seeds will not be available in quantity until the legislature grants sufficient funds for the work at the central and sub-stations, preliminary to the work of farmers and seedsmen.


The varieties offered this year are as follows: Three of the Sand Laccern (Medicago media) group; three of the yellow-flowered Medicago falcata of eastern Russia and Siberia; one of the yellow-flowered Medicago ruthenica of Eastern Siberia and Mongolia. They are named in their order going east around the world.

HANSEN’S NORTH SWEDEN ALFALFA.

This is my No. 61 of the 1906 trip. (Seed and plant introduction No. 20671.) From twenty year old fields near Ulluma about sixty six degrees latitude Sweden, a Sand Laccern or hybrid alfalfa (Medicago media), a natural hybrid of the blue-flowered M. sativa and the yellow-flowered M. falcata, bearing yellow and blue flowers; a vigorous upright habit, a heavy seeder here the past two years. Judging from its origin it will probably best in moist cool regions and be resistant to cold rather than to drought. The rainfall here has been above normal the past two seasons.

HANSEN’S CHERSNO ALFALFA.

This is my No. 196 of the 1906 trip (S. P. I. No. 20716). A Sand Laccern or hybrid alfalfa (Medicago media) descended originally from a single plant found wild on the steppes of the Voronesh province, Southeastern Russia, now second to none in extent, is to originate better and hardier fruits for the prairie Northwest than any now known. To be coinpeled to protect fruit trees and plants is Horticulture on Crutches and hence to be avoided if possible.

This department does not conduct a commercial nursery. The plants sent out are either originated here as the results of fruit-breeding experiments, or imported from Russia, Siberia or other northern regions of Europe and Asia. My policy is to offer each kind only until what introduced, leaves the main work of propagation to the commercial nurseries. The varieties sent out have all done well here; their value elsewhere can only be determined by actual trial. A careful record is kept here of each lot sent out, and it is expected that each planter will do the same and report in due season when requested.

Those interested in experimental horticulture for the prairie Northwest should order early, as the stock is limited.

HANSEN’S SAMARA ALFALFA.

This is my No. 201 of the 1906 trip (S. P. I. 20721); of tall erect growth with beautiful yellow flowers (M. falcata). From the dry steppes of Samara province in the Volga river region of eastern Russia. This may range further south than the Omsk and Ob Siberia straits, but should be found drought-resistant and sufficiently hardy for South Dakota.

HANSEN’S OMSK SIBERIA ALFALFA.

This is my No. 198 of the 1906 trip (S. P. I. 20719) and is (Medicago falcata) descended from seed picked from wild plants near Omsk, Amolinsk province of Western Siberia late in the fall of 1906. The plants hold their own perfectly with other native plants in the compact prairie or steppe sod. Omsk is in latitude fifty-five degrees. A plant of vigorous habit with bright yellow flowers. The plant varies somewhat in erectness of habit so that there is room for improvement by selection.

HANSEN’S GOBI DESERT ALFALFA.

This is Medicago falcata gathered in my 1906 trip (S. P. I. 24452) on the open steppes near Obo on the Ob or Obi river of the Tomsk province, central Siberia. In hardiness and general characters it is much like the Omsk Siberia strain.

HANSEN’S CHORSACK ALFALFA.

This is my No. 194 of my 1906 trip (S. P. I. No. 20714). A Sand Laccern (Medicago media), a hybrid alfalfa from the Voronesh or Voronezh province of the Don river region of Southeastern Russia. This spontaneous or natural hybrid of M. falcata and M. sativa will sometimes have blue flowers on one branch, yellow on another, sometimes both colors on the same branch; a heavy seeder here the past two years. This stock descended originally from a single plant growing wild and in my opinion this hybrid condition should be continued and the colors not isolated by selection as it appears to add extra vigor.

This province is in the black soil region where Indian corn, sugar beets and watermelons are raised.

HANSEN’S OBB SIBERIA ALFALFA.

This is Medicago falcata gathered in my 1908 trip (S. P. I. 24451) from the Gobi desert of Northern Mongolia. It should be tried by experiment stations only until better knowing of trial where the most extreme cold (when mercury freezes) comes during long periods in winter without any snow on the ground, and with very hot and dry summers.

Alfalfas for Experiment Stations Only.

A few plants can be spared for Experiment Stations only of several other strains of alfalfa from Siberia, including semi-erect and trailing sorts which will be desirable for trial only on steep slopes and for pasturing. Plants twice transplanted in assortment at the same price. $8.00 for 100.

STATEMENT

The object of these experiments in breeding hardy fruits, which are now second to none in extent, is to originate better and harder fruits for the prairie Northwest than any now known. To be compelled to protect fruit trees and plants is Horticulture on Crutches and hence to be avoided if possible.

Terms, Cash with Order.

Positively no credit given except to Government Experiment Stations. Add 25 cents to orders for less than $3.00 to pay for moss and packing. 10 per cent discount on orders amounting to $10 or over. Stock is shipped by express carefully packed in moss. No plants sold in less than the quantities specified.

No Orders Booked Until Paid For.

The money received from the sale of plants makes it possible to carry on the fruit-breeding work on a larger scale than would otherwise be possible. A work of tremendous magnitude and importance is being done with very limited means; this charges off to cover cost of propagation and also serves to keep the stock cut off the hands of the careless planter who is not really interested in the work.

Do not send local checks. Remit by Bank Draft, Postoffice or Express Money Order. Address:

N. E. HANSEN,
Experiment Station, Brookings, South Dakota.

January 31, 1910