

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices

62.09

1906/07

New Products of the Trees

*LUTHER & BURBANK'S
LATE INTRODUCTIONS*



*For Sale by
Fancher Creek Nurseries
Fresno, California*

New Products of the Trees

a Treatise on

Luther Burbank's Late Introductions

The Santa Rosa Plum
The Rutland Plumcot
The Paradox Walnut
The Royal (Black) Walnut

"Jock, when ye hae naething else to do, ye may be aye sticking
in a tree; it will be growing, Jock, when ye 're sleeping."

Sir Walter Scott, in The Heart of Midlothian

Commercial Propagators and Distributors

The Fancher Creek Nurseries

GEO. C. ROEDING, President and Manager
Fresno, Fresno County, California, U. S. A



"Yours for better products and more of them."

LUTHER BURBANK.

THE MEETING OF THE WAYS

THE creation and introduction of new plants and trees is a matter that has occupied the mind of man for centuries; indeed, it is safe to say, that not a single fruit of commercial value is a product of its native jungle. With the advance of civilization, man's wants have become multiplied and diverse in character, which fact has at all times and ages called into play the best endeavors of the race. This striving for perfection has necessarily put upon the market much of a meretricious character by those possessed of ambitions tinctured with a love of money rather than merit. Nevertheless, from an horticultural point of view, everything of value gives emphasis to man's intervention with the ways of nature and his unconquerable desire to "do better". Thus the Washington Navel orange was once a "new fruit", which has added millions to the pomological wealth of California; the same is true of the Burbank potato, the Elberta peach, the Wickson plum, the Bartlett pear, and countless other fruits and plants too numerous to mention. Because the unscrupulous, the over sanguine, the illiterate, boom a "new thing" of little or no value, shall we taboo all "new" things in horticulture? To do so is to place an embargo on progress, and to say to the world, "Perfection is here, hence further improvement is impossible."

It is in this broad practical way, and purely on economic grounds, that Luther Burbank has spent his life in the creation and exploitation of new things in fruits, flowers and plants. By nature his is the creative faculty,—the trend of mind that conceives, creates, executes in the realm of plant life. This being true and his work becoming so vast, it is not at all surprising that he should leave to others the work of "bringing out" his creations to the trade. Appreciating this his friends have long contended that he should be relieved of this phase of the business, so as to afford wider scope for his scientific and experimental work.

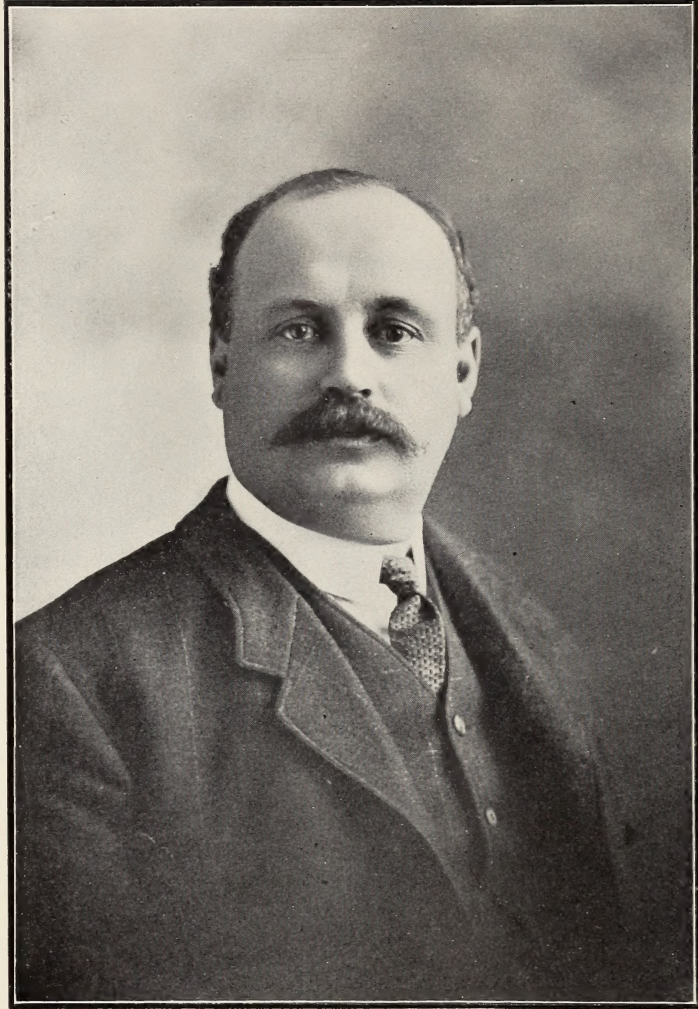
In this connection, the Fancher Creek Nurseries were approached with a view to introducing the Burbank creations to the trade. Accordingly an arrangement covering a series of years has been entered into between Mr. Burbank and this establishment whereby we become the commercial propagators and distributors of new plants and fruits known to possess real values of the first rank that he may put out from now on. We say "values of the first order" advisedly, for we have too high a regard for the horticultural interests to place anything on the market of a meretricious character; an opinion that Mr. Burbank not only endorses, but insists must be carried out to the letter. Hence our descriptions will always be found conservative and to the point; the conditions of climates and soils governing the habit of the new introduction will be found based on experience, lucid in expression, true to the facts, and conservative in their deductions.

With these preliminary statements, we take pleasure in issuing this initial booklet describing Burbank's four latest introductions, all of which possess real value to the horticulturists and plant lovers of the country, as demonstrated in the originator's grounds.

Their individual values, uses and characteristics are briefly but thoroughly described in the following pages.

GEORGE C. ROEDING

LUTHER BURBANK.



"New and promising things should be tried."
GEORGE C. ROEDING.

THE NEW SANTA ROSA PLUM

Burbank's latest and best, being a regular bearer, good shipper, of fine flavor, and handsome in appearance

NO one fruit has so strongly individualized the name of Luther Burbank as the plum. Some half a dozen varieties are the result of his creative genius, all of which have stood the test of experience in the orchards and in the markets of the world. As a natural result his latest, the "Santa Rosa," is in every way not only a superior fruit from every point of view, but must be regarded as the best thing in the way of plums that has come from his hands. It has been under trial on his fine experimental grounds at Sebastopol for the past six years, during which time it has never failed to produce bounteous crops of uniformly large perfect fruits of a deep purplish-crimson color averaging six inches in circumference each way. It possesses every essential to a marked degree calculated to make it a prime favorite among growers wherever the plum luxuriates, viz; is a good grower, good bearer, fine shipper, good keeper, and in every way a money-maker. No plum grower can afford to neglect it, nor no family orchard should be without a few trees.

At the Lewis and Clark World's Fair, held at Portland, Oregon, in 1905, the exhibit of the Santa Rosa Plum attracted wide attention on account of its beauty and great size. Indeed, its merit made so strong an appeal to the Board of Judges that it was awarded a Gold Medal, in competition with many other similar fruits on exhibition from this and neighboring States.

Distribution, Climates and Soils. Like all kindred plums it is safe to say that the "Santa Rosa" will be found suitable to a wide range of climates. As an indication of this, we have only to cite the fact that the "Burbank" (another of Mr. Burbank's discoveries) has found a congenial existence in so cold a climate as Minnesota and portions of Canada, which leads us to believe that the "Santa Rosa" is destined to win a place equally advantageous. Hence it is well worthy of trial culture wherever plums are found to grow and produce fruit. To do its best it should have a well drained sandy or loamy soil, and be given intensive culture. As to general treatment, that is much a matter of location, which will suggest itself by the general practice with plum trees under prevailing local conditions.

Blooming and Fruiting. The Santa Rosa plum in California is considered a medium early bloomer, and it is presumed it will maintain this characteristic quite generally wherever planted. In this state it has never failed to yield an abundant crop, though obviously, it is as yet but sparingly introduced.

Quality and Value of Fruit. The superb market quality of the Santa Rosa plum has never been equalled. As a shipping fruit it is the peer of them all,—

Luther Burbank's Late Introductions

“Standing up” under the most trying conditions. The plums are a deep purplish crimson with a pale blue bloom, each fruit averaging six inches in circumference each way; the flesh near the skin is purple shaded with rosy scarlet and pale amber towards the stone, which is quite small; the eating quality is unequalled, rich, fragrant, delicious, surpassingly exquisite; ripens with the earliest, nearly a week before Climax and Red June, and two weeks earlier than the Burbank. The Santa Rosa has been so thoroughly tested that we feel certain that every grower who will plant and care for the trees properly, and whose soil and climate afford good plum conditions, will, if he plants this grand plum, find that we have not exaggerated its fine qualities.

Habit of Growth. The tree is a strong, vigorous, upright grower. In habit it much resembles the ever popular Wickson with even larger and more abundant foliage, thus affording ample protection to the fruit. The period after planting at which it will bear depends on prevailing conditions of soil and climate. It is Mr. Burbank's experience that in favorable situations it will yield fifty pounds of fruit when the trees are four years of age; this will of course be more or less modified by the character of the soil, climate, care and cultivation given an orchard.

Judge S. F. Lieb of San Jose, a prominent grower and a recognized authority on fruit culture, has given this plum a thorough test, and writes as follows touching on its many admirable qualities:

San Jose, Cal., October 10, 1906.

Fancher Creek Nurseries, Fresno, Cal.,

Gentlemen:—Your favor of the 29th instant at hand. I have had the Santa Rosa plum fruiting in an experimental way for four or five years; I have therefore tested it out very thoroughly.

Everything considered, I am of the opinion that it is by all odds the finest all around plum Mr. Burbank has yet produced, and I have kept close track of all of them. It is a fine grower, the wood is very tough and the limbs will not break. It is a sure and regular bearer and bears always most abundantly. It does not have any off years. The fruit runs remarkably fine, even in size and astonishingly smooth and clear of any defects. It is beautiful, delicious and a very fine carrier to Eastern markets. It will keep well in hot weather for a week after it is ripe, so there is no occasion to pick it half ripe in order to ship.

I intend to plant it very largely myself, and to the exclusion of all other shipping plums.

“This grand plum has been so thoroughly tested,” writes Mr. Burbank, “that we offer it as above, knowing that all will be pleased with it.”

THE NOVEL RUTLAND PLUMCOT

A strikingly individual fruit, combining in its parentage the essential qualities of the plum and apricot, rendering it of unusually keen interest to fruit growers

AS its name clearly indicates, this new candidate for horticultural honors, is a cross between the plum and apricot,—a feat deemed impossible of accomplishment a few years ago. That its perfection was a matter of patient labor, close study and keen observation goes without saying, but with a continuity and singleness of purpose Burbank has been successful in overcoming obstacles thereby creating a fruit which happily partakes of the qualities of both parent stocks. In this endeavor many have been produced and amalgamated, resulting finally in what has been happily called "The Rutland Plumcot". In every respect Mr. Burbank does not consider it a perfect fruit, but it does possess some strong points of special interest to fruit growers. For instance, though not a heavy bearer, it produces fine large fruits in liberal quantities every year where apricots fail, thus to a great extent increasing the area for that fruit.

Distribution, Soils and Climate. Obviously, by reason of its parentage, the Plumcot will not only flourish in all portions of California, but it is the conviction of those who know it best, that it will do well in the sheltered portions of Arizona, Southwestern Texas, along the Gulf of Mexico, the extreme southern States and as far north as Washington and Maryland. All the stone fruits, excepting the apricot, will withstand considerable cold, and the Plumcot possessing some of the elements of the plum, its culture is feasible where the apricot would be considered hazardous. It finds congenial conditions in a well drained loamy sandy soil, and is keenly responsive to intensive culture.

Blooming and Fruiting. Though recognized as an early bloomer, it nevertheless possesses characteristics insuring regular crops. The flowers appear continuously over a considerable period of time, thus enabling it to escape late spring frosts, where the apricot, under identical conditions, bringing forth its blooms all at one time, suffers a total loss of its crop. This of itself is an important feature in its favor, especially in localities quite subject to spring frosts.

Character and Value of its Fruit. Obviously the amalgamation of the apricot and the plum must produce a fruit unique in character, hence its economic value is a matter still largely to be determined by its development and the exploitation of its uses. One of its striking features is its brilliant red flesh possessed of a strong sub-acid flavor rendering it a favorite for cooking, jellies and jams. When fully ripe, it is an excellent dessert fruit possessing a delightful apricot-plum flavor soothing to the palate and melting in the mouth. Fruit about the size of an ordinary apricot with a deep purple velvety skin.

Habit of Growth. The tree is in every sense an object of beauty, growing much like a weeping willow with long pendulous branches which bend and hang gracefully over. Foliage small in character, somewhat thin, resembling that of the plum rather than that of the apricot.

The demand for this fruit has been so urgent that Mr. Burbank has consented to send it out in the face of the fact that he does not think he has developed it to its highest possibilities. Its many fine qualities coupled with its possibilities merit at least trial culture by the advanced horticulturists of the country.



The Rutland Plumcot



The Santa Rosa Plum

THE TREE FOR FUEL AND SHADE

RAPID GROWING. FINE SHAPE. DENSE WOOD.

THE NEW HYBRID WALNUT, THE PARADOX

Juglans Californica × *Juglans Rega*.

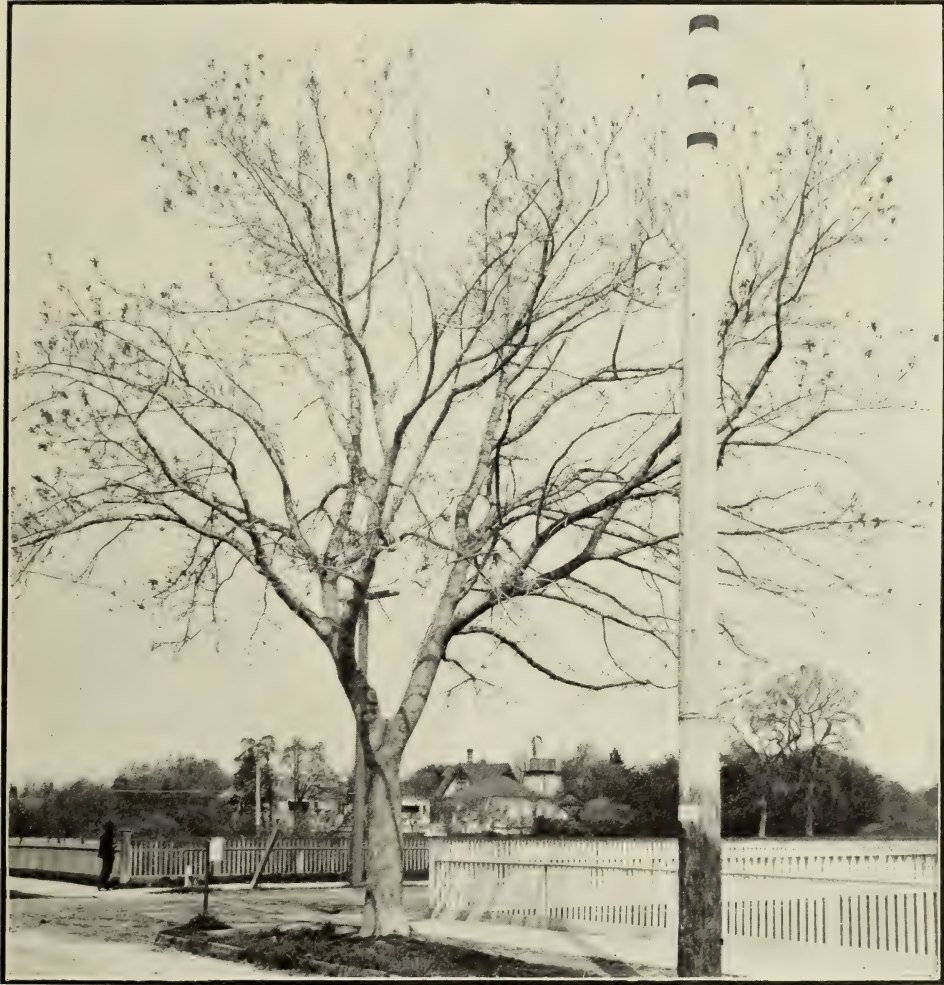


The Paradox Walnut Tree in foliage.

Fifteen years old; planted on hard, side walk; never irrigated; height, 60 feet; spread of limbs, 75 feet; trunk, 4 feet from the ground, 25 inches in diameter

THERE has been a demand in California, and for that matter wherever the Eucalypts flourish, for a rapid growing deciduous tree for fuel and lumber purposes, street and avenue planting, and wherever immediate tree growth is demanded. The Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) among evergreen trees will always hold its own; but where a deciduous tree is desired this new hybrid walnut is destined to occupy first place. In rapidity of growth it is suggestive of such

quick-growing trees as the Blue Gum, distancing all other nut trees in rapidity of growth, size of foliage and beauty of form. Budded trees six years of age under the same conditions are fully twice as large, broad and tall as Black Walnut trees at ten, or Persian walnut trees at fifteen years of age. Twelve to sixteen feet growth in the nursery vows the first years is not unusual; thus the hybrid



The Paradox Walnut Tree dormant.

grows twice as fast as the combined growth of both its parents. The leaves, which are from two feet to a full yard in length, are clean cut, glossy, bright green, have a surpassing sweet odor resembling that of fragrant apples and as powerful and peculiar as that of roses and lilies.

The bark is thin, smooth, light gray with marblings of white; the wood is very compact, with lustrous silky grain, taking a beautiful polish, and as the annual layers of growth are an inch or more in thickness and the medullary rays promin-



Foliage of the Paradox Walnut

ent the effect is unique.. This hybrid originated in 1888 from a cross made the year before; like many true hybrids, though blossoming freely every season, it seldom bears nuts and is readily budded or grafted on thrifty young Black Walnut stock. As an ornamental tree it is peerless and for wood and lumber possesses merit out of the ordinary. In shape and habit of growth it is very pleasing to the eye, rendering it especially desirable for ornamental purposes. As is well-known, the evergreens (if too plenty immediately surrounding houses and gardens) are quite apt to intensify a sense of gloom and chilliness during our rainy season, because shutting out sunshine to the house or surrounding vegetation at a time when it is unusually welcome. In planting the Paradox walnut this is largely overcome, and the beauty of the landscape enhanced during the winter by its absence of foliage and likewise in summer affording a comforting protection from the hot sun by its presence. Its nuts possess little commercial value.

THE LUMBER TREE OF THE FUTURE

THE NEW HYBRID

THE ROYAL BLACK WALNUT

OF all the forest trees adapted to the making of high-grade lumber in this country, not one possesses a greater commercial value than the Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*), nor is there another tree which has so ruthlessly been cut away from the landscape of its native habitat. The rich forests of the upper Mississippi Valley are practically exhausted, with the result that its lumber now possesses the highest value in the American markets. Indeed, its value makes it prohibitive to a large extent for the purposes to which it was originally used in the manufacture of furniture and interior house finishing. The result is that it is now extensively used as a veneer face to other and cheaper woods. The tree is a slow grower, which fact has somewhat retarded reforestation and planting for purposes of lumber.

These considerations have become more pronounced as the native trees have become exhausted, and the feasibility of growing the Black Walnut for timber purposes has often been urged on land owners and foresters. The principal obstacle has been the rather slow growth of the tree, it requiring something more than twenty years to produce sawable logs. These conditions excited the mind of Mr. Burbank to the feasibility of hybridizing the Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) of the Mississippi valley with the California variety (*J. Californica*) with the hope that the hybrid would produce a wood of fine quality and a tree which for rapidity of growth would produce merchantable timber in half the time required by the Black Walnut,—a feat possible only by the patience, care, minute observation and “know how” of a Burbank. Hybridization in the wild state happens at very rare intervals, hence we believe that the Royal is the first case on record of its having been accomplished artificially.

It is the first hybrid of this kind ever brought to the attention of botanists and horticulturists. The original tree was produced in 1878 by crossing the American Black Walnut (*Juglans nigra*) and the California black walnut (*J. Californica*). The first year of its existence it outgrew all other trees in its vicinity and at the end of the first season was fully four times as large as the most rapid growers of its kind, while all the trees grafted from it have maintained this phenomenal development, holding its own with any other tree which can be grown in temperate climates. Unlike many hybrids these trees produce large nuts in the utmost profusion at an early age even while making such a wonderful growth. The nuts are larger and of much better quality than ordinary black walnuts but are not esteemed for food purposes. The value of this new creation is for lumber and fuel and incidentally as a shade and ornamental tree of great beauty and grand proportions. It has proven to be hardy wherever



The Royal Black Walnut in foliage, fifteen years old.

the common Black Walnut thrives. Practical lumbermen were at first in doubt if such a rapid growing tree could produce dark, hard, close grained wood of a silky fibre which would take a fine polish, but on trial the wood has been found to have all the best qualities of the ordinary black walnut lumber in perfection. The wood is exceedingly hard, close grained, takes a silky polish and is even superior to ordinary black walnut lumber, more nearly resembling the tropical mahogany.



The Royal Black Walnut Tree dormant.

The "Royal" makes such an unequalled growth that it will be best to plant the trees for timber growing about twenty-five feet apart each way and when six to ten years of age half of the trees should be removed to give the remainder room. Cultivation during the first few years is of great advantage. Any ordinary crop can be grown among the trees until they claim the whole space.

From Mr. Harwood's recent book on "New Creations in Plant Life" we take the following laudatory paragraphs voicing the opinions of lumberman and wood-workers:

"The new wood is as hard as the old-fashioned black walnut, somewhat harder when fully seasoned."

"It has a finer grain than the old walnut and takes a higher polish."

"It is nearer the mahogany grades than any other walnut and remarkably like some of the tropic mahoganies."

"Its possibilities when quartered or when sawn for other novel effects in veneers, are large."

"The width of the annual growth makes it peculiarly suitable when sawn in long strips for wainscoting and like effects."

"While the fiber of the wood is hard, it is fine for working as well as for polishing."

Under ordinary good conditions saw logs can be expected at from eight to twelve years of age from planting. Like most of its family it makes a rather slow growth the first year after transplanting but when once established, its growth is rapid, firm, and a delight to the planter. By nature it prefers a deep alluvial soil, well drained. Indeed, the "Royal" will grow along side of and under similar conditions to the American Black Walnut of the Eastern and Middle Western States. This being essentially true it will naturally withstand the same degree of frost and cold. It is really as hardy as the oaks.

