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## Northern Plant Novelties for 1945

N.E. Hansen  
*South Dakota State College*

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Horticulture  
Pamphlet #32

February 24, 1945

NORTHERN PLANT NOVELTIES FOR 1945

Agricultural Experiment Station  
South Dakota State College  
Brookings, South Dakota

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## Northern Plant Novelties for 1945

- Niels E. Hansen

February 24, 1945

This department does not conduct a commercial nursery, but propagates and distributes new varieties, either originated in this department or imported. Improvement in size and quality has been observed each year since 1895 in the many acres of seedling fruits. The work has been honored by extensive propagation and planting of many of the new varieties, all originated or imported by Dr. Niels E. Hansen.

Some of the varieties offered are primarily for other fruit-breeders to help in the work of originating hardy fruits.

Terms: Cash with order, except to Experiment Stations. For South Dakota orders, add two percent State Retail Sales Tax. Orders for Scions must be sent as early as possible.

### Offered for the First Time

1. Hansen Seedless pear, with no seeds and no core.
2. Sodak: a one-seed pear.
3. Kasha: a large commercial apple.
4. Ata: another all-red crab with red flesh.
5. Kensib: a long-keeping hybrid native wild crab.

### A SEEDLESS PEAR

A pear without core or seeds would be highly prized. But it is a very rare phenomenon. In Russia, Bessemianka is an old standard widely popular variety; the name means "without seeds". The German pear, Rihas Kernlose Butterbirne, is seedless and coreless. All the west European pears winter-kill; the Russian pears are winter-hardy. But both of these classes of pears are subject to fire-blight, a bacterial disease native to North-eastern America.

This leaves the field open for a winter-hardy, blight-immune seedless pear. Resistance or immunity to fire-blight is found in the pears of North China and East Siberia.

I have originated many hybrids of this kind. Hardy pear nursery stocks must also be provided. To propagate these hardy pears on tender commercial stocks is a waste of time; at the north such trees are subject to root-killing. We also need a hardy dwarf stock to take the place of Quince, which winter-kills. This would give fruit the second year, and of size larger than is usual for pears on standard pear stocks.

The apex of these experiments in pear-breeding is probably the two varieties described in this report: Hansen Seedless and Sodak. One is seedless and one near-seedless; both are of excellent quality, melting flesh, no grit, no fire-blight, winter-hardy, and productive.

Pedigree: a hardy North China pear, Pyrus Sinensis, which I brought from Russia, crossed with pollen of a choice quality French pear, Marguerite Marillat.

#### HANSEN SEEDLESS PEAR

Offered for the first time, Fruit a rich yellow, rounded tapering sharply to stem, abovate-obtuse-pyriform, 2.25 x 2.5 inches deep. Flesh, melting, buttery, tender, free from grit, excellent quality. One judge said, "Better than Bartlett". Season about October. Available this year; only a few short scions; each \$1.00.

#### SODAK PEAR

Offered for the first time. A long pear, usually with only one seed, often entirely seedless. From the same lot of seedlings that produced the Hansen Seedless. Fruit yellow, 2 x 2.5 inches deep, oblong-obovate-pyriform, stem long. Flesh white, very juicy, melting, buttery, no grit when fully ripe.

Quality excellent. Tree of strong growth (Name: condensed from South Dakota.) A few scions, each \$1.00.

#### KASHA APPLE

Offered for the first time. A large apple, seedling of Wolf River, which is a seedling of Alexander. The old Emperor Alexander is the leading member of the Apert, a Russian family of large apples. Sister of Semla, introduced 1940. (Kasha: the Russian for porridge, usually proso millet).

Fruit 3 and 3/16 x 2 and 3/8 inches, regular, round oblate, covered with mixed red stripes and splashes over yellow ground. Flesh yellowish white, juicy, slices retains shape, cooks into excellent quality sauce. Late fall to early winter. Scions- \$1.00 per foot.

#### ATA CRABAPPLE

Offered for the first time. A red-flesh crab, a good companion to my Redflesh crab which is now widely grown and found to be very productive. Somewhat larger than Redflesh. Pedigree: Sasha apple x Redflesh crabapple pollen. The red flesh is from Pyrus Malus Niedzwetzkyana, native of the Tia Shan (Heavenly) mountains, Kazakstan, on the edge of China. The fruit a solid polished red all over, 2.125 x 2/25 inches deep; round oval. Basin flat, corrugated; cavity acuminate, often lipped (flesh has nose-like ridge against stem.) Flesh red throughout, sprightly subacid, quality good. Fruit should be left on tree as long as possible to get full color. (Name: from Alma Ata, capital of Kazakstan).

## TWO AMERICA x SIBERIA CRABAPPLES

### AMSIB AND KENSIB

Many years ago I deemed it worthwhile to see what would happen if the strong acerbity of the American wild crab, Pyrus Ioensis, met the sharp acidity of the Siberian wild crab, Pyrus Baccata. In the Amsib (introduced in 1932) and others since of similar pedigree: the result is a neutral flavor, one neutralizing the other. But the all-the-year keeping character of the American crab is dominant. Very productive, fruit 1.75 inches in both diameters. Amsib is a heavy bearer; in 1944 the fruit was 1.75 inches both diameters.

### KENSIB CRABAPPLE

Offered for the first time. Pedigree: Kentucky Mammoth wild crab x Dolgo crab pollen. Fruit cylindrical, 2 x 1.5 inches deep, obovate regular, unctuous, solid black red. Basin abrupt, smooth; cavity obtuse, green. Flesh white; the native acerbity greatly reduced by the Siberian acidity. Cooks into a pleasant flavored sauce, excellent to blend with common apple sauce. A all-the-year keeper. (Name condensed from Kentucky and Siberia) Scions of Kensib and Amsib: \$1.00 per foot.

### 1944 Apple and Pear Notes

1. Maga apple: A beautiful apple, 3 x 2.25 inches deep, hardy, McIntosh type, with red color, excellent quality. Fruit is highly fragrant.
2. Goldo and South Dakota Golden: Two sister varieties (Grimes Golden x Duchess) both excellent eating apples. Goldo: 3 inches across. Flesh excellent quality and firm, keeps remarkably well in cold storage, until late February at least. South Dakota Golden: 3.25 x 2.75 inches deep, earlier season than Goldo.
3. Almata: A red apple with red flesh, nearly 3 inches across, (exact size - 2 and 7/8 inches) an excellent eating apple.
4. Tolmo: 3 x 2.5 inches. Tolmo apples are highly fragrant, as well as of good quality,
5. Bismer: Pedigree: Bismarck apple x Mercer crab pollen. Hence is 3/4 standard apple, 1/4 American Wild crab. Fruit solid red, 2.5 inches across, sweetsabid, cooks quickly into excellent sauce.
6. Wakpala: A heavy crop 1944. Pedigree: Mercer wild crab x Tolman Sweet apple pollen. Hence is another hybrid: 3/4 tame apple, 1/4 wild crab. Fruit is highly fragrant, high quality, cooks into excellent sauce.
7. Okolo pear: Good crop, fruit 2.5 x 2.25 inches. Shape like a medium Kieffer. A pear of excellent quality and of commercial size. Tree a strong grower.

### Grapes Hardy Without Winter Protection

In the spring of 1925 (see South Dakota State Bulletin 224) vines and cutting of 32 varieties of hardy hybrid grapes were distributed in limited numbers. The original vines have been transplanted three times. These varieties are hybrids of the Northwestern prairie grape, Vitis riparia, (or V. vulpina). Grape growers in Europe prefer the name V. riparia, and use this native American species as understocks for standard V. vinifera grapes to evade the phylloxera insect. "The 1924 spring list records: A display of these varieties has been made the past three years at the South Dakota state fair and they have been greatly admired". These varieties are intended for northern prairie regions where the Concord winter kills. Lack of land has delayed their extended propagation.

In 1944 these old thrice-transplanted vines staged a strong comeback and produced a good crop. The Roger Hybrids, such as Salem, Merrimac, Wilder, and Lady Washington are all hybrids of Labrusca (Concord type) with Vinifera, the Hold Land grape. So that the 32 varieties are mostly combinations of 3 species: riparia, labrusca, and vinifera. Much more work could be done in this direction.

Price: A few cuttings of the following varieties: 4 for \$1.00. The choice must be left to the writer, as much as possible, as the supply is limited.

Santee: Pedigree (Merrimac x Beta), 3/4 inch in diameter, meaty. A large black grape, near Concord size. A good juicy grape, slightly wild flavor. The largest recorded in 1922.

Atken: Pedigree (Lady x North Dakota wild), 9/16 inches in diameter, dark amber pink with delicate bloom, a table grape of good quality. An approach to a Delaware for the North.

Shakoka: Pedigree (Lady x North Dakota wild), a round black grape with heavy white blooms, 5/8 inches in diameter, near Concord size, of good table quality, with a touch of the wild.

Eona: Pedigree (Lady Washington x Beta). A fine white grape with a tinge of pink, 1/2 inch diameter.

Mandan: Pedigree (Wilder x North Dakota wild). A long compact bunch, black, 5/8 inch diameter. Good quality with some wild flavor.

Sonona: Pedigree (Lady x North Dakota wild). Large, white with light red tinge, 5/8 inch diameter. Bunch long, heavy - shouldered, sweet and good quality with trace of wild.

Siposka: Pedigree (Lady x North Dakota wild). Large, black with white bloom, 5/8 inch diameter. Seeds separate easily from the pulp. Quality: considerable of the wild.

Wetonka: Pedigree (Beta x Salem). A large black grape; 1/2 inches diameter, seeds separate easily. Some wild flavor; large bunch, shouldered.

Chontay: Pedigree (Massasoit x Beta). Black with light bloom; 1/2 inch diameter. Flavor very good. Seeds separate readily from flesh.

Note: The formula for hardy large grapes of good quality is indicated in these experiments. When land and labor are available, the way is open for thousands of acres of productive vineyards.

These vines will need no winter protection because the native Dakota hardiness has been bred into them. It is a waste of time to cover grape vines.