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About the Institute

The Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation, a research division of Carnegie Mellon University, specializes in the history of botany and all aspects of plant science and serves the international scientific community through research and documentation. To this end, the Institute acquires and maintains authoritative collections of books, plant images, manuscripts, portraits and data files, and provides publications and other modes of information service. The Institute meets the reference needs of botanists, biologists, historians, conservationists, librarians, bibliographers and the public at large, especially those concerned with any aspect of the North American flora.

Hunt Institute was dedicated in 1961 as the Rachel McMasters Miller Hunt Botanical Library, an international center for bibliographical research and service in the interests of botany and horticulture, as well as a center for the study of all aspects of the history of the plant sciences. By 1971 the Library's activities had so diversified that the name was changed to Hunt Institute for Botanical Documentation. Growth in collections and research projects led to the establishment of four programmatic departments: Archives, Art, Bibliography and the Library.

JEHAN DARTIQUE : PRESIDENT
GERARD BOUCARD : VICE-PRESIDENT
FRANCK BONCY : SECRETAIRE
PIERRE G. SYLVAIN : MEMBRE

SOCIETE ANONYME DARBOUCO

Capital Social \$ 18.000
P. O. BOX 4
85, RUE DU QUAI
PHONE : 2310
PORT-AU-PRINCE, HAITI

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Moteurs « BERNARD-MOTEURS »
May 30, 1960.

Dr. Wilson Poponoe,
Antigua,
Guatemala.

Dear Sir :

We have been given your address by Dr. Pierre G. Sylvain who suggested that we wish you to secure information on the growing of fruit trees from the temperate zone in high lands of the tropics.

In fact, besides information on the varieties to be grown at altitudes varying between 1200 and 2000 meters, which we partly had from excerpts of your book entitled "Fructicultura Centro Americana", we would also be obliged if you would suggest the name of eventual suppliers of budded or grafted plants in your area likely to supply fruits of good quality under these conditions.

Our growers are mostly interested in peaches, apples, prunes, pears, cherries and apricots.

They grow peach trees generally at altitudes varying between 1200 and 1500 meters in the high lands surrounding Port-au-Prince, where the temperature varies between 10o and 28oC, the yearly average being about 21oC. The Latitude is 18o30N. Whether it is or not a question of varieties, the fruits are generally of poor to fair quality.

As for apples, either in the same area or in the surroundings of St. Marc at approximately 1200 meters above sea level (Lat. 19oN), they obtained good sized but somewhat acid fruits. The grower we are in touch with in St. Marc pretends that the apple tree he is now cultivating dates back from the colonial time.

Regarding pear, apricot and cherry trees, they scarcely succeeded in the altitudes mentioned above although a few pear and cherry trees seem to have produced some fruits at approximately 1700 meters above sea level in the highlands between Port-au-Prince and Jacmel.

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The varieties of above mentioned plants that are now being tried by a few growers are as follows :

Peach Trees : Fay Elberta, Babcock, J.H. Hale, Meadow Lark

Plum Trees : Santa Rosa, Beauty, Satsuma, Laroda, Decarte

Apple Trees : Red Gravenstein, Winter Banana, White Astrakan

Pear Trees : Max Red Bartlett, Winter Nelis, Secke, Bartlett, Beurre Hardy

Apricot Trees:Blenheim, Newcastle, Tilton Moorpark

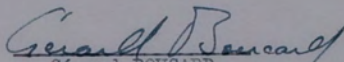
Cherry Trees :Black Republican, Black Tartarian, Royal Ann, Bing.

We would appreciate receiving your advice as to the possible success of above varieties under such conditions and also taking into account that the soil is a red laterite, acid or neutral in most cases. We would also be pleased to receive your suggestions of the best varieties that may grow in these areas. Please note that information on day-light hours that prevailed during the year are not available.

Thanking you in anticipation, we are,

Yours very truly,

Société Anonyme DARBOUCO


Gérard BOUCARD

GB/ab

Temperate Zone Fruit Trees for High Elevations in Tropical America.

Sources of Planting Material:

California Nursery Company, Niles, California (get catalog). Apples, plums, pears, grapes, Japanese persimmons and a few other things. Good stock, best prices; and they know how to ship. Armstrong Nurseries, Ontario, California. Gold Nugget loquat (probably not obtainable elsewhere); plums, perhaps apples. Fine stock but high prices. Get catalog. Glen Saint Mary Nurseries, Glen Saint Mary, Florida. Some plums, Japanese pears, but mainly peaches Jewel, Angel and Waldo which you can not obtain in California and which are the best for tropical regions. Get catalog.

Fruits and varieties.

Apples: Must go at your highest elevations. Not below 6000 ft and better at 7500. Winter Banana likely to prove most successful. Try also Delicious and Golden or Yellow Delicious. Get from California Nursery Co. Climate should be as dry as possible with plenty of sunshine.

Pears. Not too hopeful. Seckel may succeed fairly well, above 6000 ft. The Japanese pears can go somewhat lower - 5000 - but quality is very poor. Especially Pineapple - not worth growing. Hood, Orient and Baldwin from Glen Saint Mary worth trying, also Kieffer from California, though of poor quality.

Plums. These are likely to be your most successful and popular temperate zone fruits. From 5000 feet up. Santa Rosa one of the best. Satsuma probably next best though not of such good dessert quality. Add Kelsey and one or two other Japanese plums and plant several varieties together to insure good crops - cross-pollination is an important factor. The so-called Reina Claudia of Ecuador is excellent and does well in tropical highlands, but can not be obtained from nurseries in the U.S. It is not the same as the Reine Claudes of Europe; it is a Japanese plum.

Peaches. Angel, Jewel and Waldo from Florida, all good and will probably do well as low as 3500 ft. Some people in the tropics do not like them; they say they are dry and mealy. The trouble is our people are used to the hard seedling clings which grow all over tropical America; which are juicy and spicy but by U S standards poor peaches.

Apricots and Cherries. Better forget about them. They have been complete failures in tropical America, even when put at 8000 ft. Grapes. You should plant some of the American varieties; especially Niagara, Isabella, and Golden Muscat. Much attention must be given to pruning, probably twice a year. These do not need high elevations; will grow practically from sea level to 7500 ft.

Berries. Plant strawberries from 2000 to 6000 ft, the higher the better. Varieties Missionary, Klondike and Florida 90. Plant Youngberries and Boysenberries, 5000 ft upward. Try to get Rubus glaucus, a fine berry cultivated in El Salvador, Colombia, and Ecuador. It needs about 5000 ft, up to 8000 ft. Has good commercial possibilities.

Antigua Guatemala, 10 June 1960

Mr. Gérard Boucard,
P. O. Box 4,
85, Rue Du Quai,
Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

My dear Sir:

Replying to your letter of 30th May I enclose a memorandum which I hope answers your questions on the basis of the most recent information available. This memorandum also gives you the names of the three nurseries in the United States from which most of the trees planted here in Central America during recent years have been obtained. These nurseries are all reliable and know how to ship plants to tropical America. The shipping season in the States is mainly December and January, though trees can be dug in California as late as February.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Popenoe

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DRYING SYSTEMS »,
Moteurs « BERNARD-MOTEURS ».

June 20, 1960.

S-1 : 865

Dr. Wilson Popenoe,
Antigua,
Guatemala.

Dear Sir :

We wish to extend our deepest thanks for your letter
of June 10.

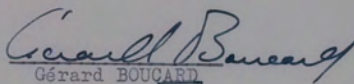
The information attached therewith will be of great
help to us although we would be interested to secure the addresses
of possible suppliers of such suggested fruit materials as Reina
Claudia plums and Rubus glaucus.

Also, it would interest us to know whether the Prunus
myrtifolia which grows wild in many high lands in this country may
be used as grafting stock for some of the temperate fruits.

Thanking you again, we are,

Yours very truly

Société Anonyme DARBOUCO


Gérard BOUCARD

GB/ab

Antigua Guatemala, 27 June 1960

Mr. Gérard Boucard,
P. O. Box 4,
85, Rue Du Quai,
Port-Au-Prince, Haiti.

Dear Mr. Boucard:

Replying to your letter of the 20th., it is not going to be easy to obtain the so-called "Reina Claudia" plum. We do not know of any commercial nurseries in Ecuador, and the last lot of trees we got from there were badly mixed up. In any case you do not really need that variety. Get from the California Nursery Company plenty of Santa Rosa and Satsuma plums, and by all means ask them to supply you with a good number of Kelsey plums whenever they can. They do not catalog this variety but the President of the Company told me they would grow some for us. I have just been eating some magnificent specimens of this plum, grown near Antigua at 5400 feet, and I think it is by far the finest plum I have ever seen. I believe the California Nursery Co. offers Wyckson, another fine plum and I suggest you try this also.

As for Rubus glaucus, no nursery offers this. Don Francisco de Sola of San Salvador has a large planting of this variety and I shall see if I can get him to prepare a number of plants for distribution, since a number of people are becoming interested in this. It will probably will be six months or more before we can get material.

As regards the possibility of grafting such things as plums and peaches on your native Prunus myrtifolia, I do not know what to say. Most certainly I would try it. At the same time I think peach seedlings likely to prove more satisfactory. I assume you must have many seedling peaches in Haiti, which will supply material for propagation. We have been rather inclined to use peach rootstocks rather than plums.

Sincerely yours,

Wilson Popenoe