

The origin of fruit grown in New Zealand: the publications of Albert Farmer

A.R. Ferguson¹

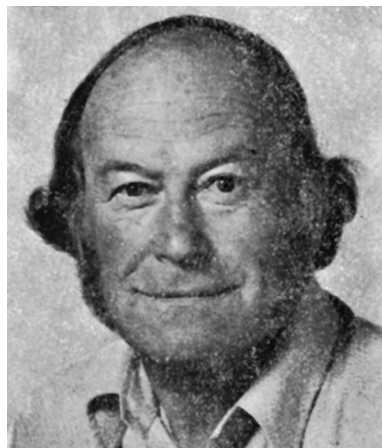


Fig. 1 Bert Farmer. Reproduced with permission from *The Orchardist of New Zealand* 49 (1976): 84.

Albert (Bert) Farmer (Fig. 1) was a member of Plant Diseases Division and then Fruit Research Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research at Mt Albert, Auckland for nearly 40 years until his retirement in the late 1970s (Anon., 1976). He introduced and tested new cultivars and new fruit crops, evaluated rootstocks and new training methods. Towards the end of his career, he became interested in the origins of fruit crops grown in New Zealand, especially those bred in this country. He had the great advantage of personally knowing many of the older nurserymen or their immediate families. He was thus able to get details from many of those involved although sometimes memories may have faded (Farmer, 1973a; Ferguson, 1983). He wrote a series of 35 shorter notes on the origin of the fruit grown in New Zealand for the *New Zealand Herald* and 15 longer articles in *Fruit and Produce* as well as others. The list below is of those so far found. Fortunately, I had a list of the *Herald* articles but it is possible that there are others. Many of the cultivars that he described are no longer grown commercially but they are important for the history of fruit growing in New Zealand.

Unsurprisingly, most of the fruit cultivars discussed by Farmer were imported. Leading local nurserymen obviously had good contacts with overseas nurserymen or breeders and promising new cultivars were soon available in New Zealand from overseas. For example, the 'Satsuma' plum was imported by Luther Burbank into the United States in 1895 and was in New Zealand only a year later. It was advertised for sale in New Zealand the same year as it was first sold in the United States (Farmer, 1974b).

Imported cultivars sometimes acquired new names in New Zealand, usually because the original name had been lost, e.g., 'Roxburgh Red' apricot was probably 'Large Early' (Farmer, 1973j), 'Dawson Cherry' was possibly 'Noir de Guben' (Farmer, 1975d) and 'Captain Cook' strawberry was probably 'Phenomenal' (Farmer, 1974u, 1975c). Several different names might be used before one predominated, e.g., 'Dunn's Favourite' apple was also known in New Zealand as 'Ohinemuri' or 'Munroe's Favourite' (Farmer, 1974g).

Locally developed cultivars could also be known by different names. The 'Hayward' kiwifruit was earlier known as "Wright's Large Oval", "Wright's Giant", "Giant", "McWhannell's" or "Hooper's Giant" (Ferguson and Bollard, 1990). Individual nurserymen would propagate the one plant under different names, e.g., the plum sold as 'George Wilson' or 'Omega' (Farmer, 1973a). When Farmer wrote, nearly 50 years ago, identities were established on morphological characteristics alone as the more definitive methods using molecular techniques were not then available.

The accounts of fruit bred or selected in New Zealand are particularly interesting. Most of these were

selected as seedlings or bud mutations and very few resulted from planned crosses (Farmer, 1955). Hayward Wright (Fig. 2), for example, often named the parents of cultivars he raised but usually the parentage was inferred because of the fruit characteristics or the proximity of likely parents (Farmer, 1966).



Fig. 2 Hayward Wright, reproduced with permission from *The Orchardist of New Zealand* 11 (1938): 326.

The most striking exception is the systematic breeding programme of James Kidd (Fig. 3) resulting in his selection of 'Kidd's Orange' (Kidd, 1929; Anon., 1970a; Farmer, 1973g; McKenzie, 1983) although his most successful cultivar, 'Gala', selected long after his death, is not discussed.

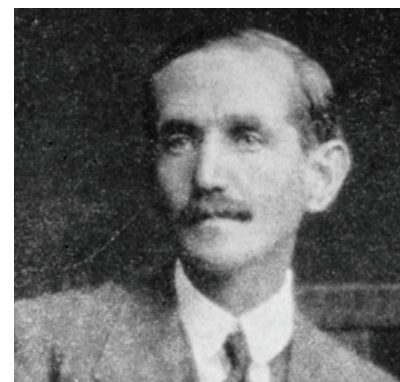


Fig. 3 James Hutton Kidd, who bred the apple 'Kidd's Orange Red'. Reproduced with permission from *The Orchardist of New Zealand* 43 (1970): 15.

¹ Honorary Fellow, The New Zealand Institute for Plant and Food Research Limited, Private Bag 92169, Auckland, New Zealand; Ross.Ferguson@plantandfood.co.nz

Before plant variety rights were available, nurserymen zealously protected their propagation stock. Nurserymen had to recoup their costs, particularly if they imported material from overseas. Hayward Wright frequently complained of the inadequate rewards received by the raisers of new plants. He wrote, "Seeing that the raiser of new varieties has no protection by Act of Parliament, it is necessary to accumulate sufficient orders to absorb the present stock of trees before any can be distributed" (Wright, 1921b). A correspondent to the *New Zealand Fruitgrower* (Tonar, 1921) wrote: "Paragon peach must have placed £20,000 into the pockets of growers, and I doubt if the raiser received anything like the compensation he was entitled to." The £2000 paid for the propagation rights for 'Kidd's Orange' apple (Farmer, 1973g) appears to be exceptional for a New Zealand selection. Propagation royalties could cease once other nurserymen were propagating the same cultivar (Farmer, 1973a).

Nurserymen often went to extreme measures to protect their investment. David A. Hay (Fig. 4) sent his manager, R. Macgregor, to Tauranga to collect budwood of the original 'Golden Queen' peach tree. He purchased sole propagation rights and after as much budwood as possible had been collected the stump was dug out to prevent others obtaining propagating material (Farmer, 1974e). The original 'Golden Delicious' apple tree in the United States was protected by a steel mesh cage, complete with burglar alarm, to prevent any theft of propagation wood (Stark, 1970).



Fig. 4 David A. Hay. Reproduced from *Cyclopedia of NZ, Auckland Provincial District*, Remuera (1902): 522.

The nurserymen mentioned by Farmer include some of the giants of early New Zealand horticulture (Hale, 1955). The Hays of Montpellier Nursery, David Hay and his son David Alexander Hay, were responsible for the introduction of many different fruit trees (Fig. 5), especially plums from Luther Burbank as well as the locally derived peach cultivar 'Golden Queen' and the nectarine 'Goldmine' (Anon., 1933; Shepherd, 1993).



Fig. 5 Back cover of nursery catalogue, D. Hay & Son, Montpellier Nursery near Parnell, Auckland, New Zealand, 1899. [Ephemera and horticulture sales catalogues issued by New Zealand plant nurseries, 1870–1899]. Ref: Eph-A-HORTICULTURE-1899-01-back. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22311104. The 'Clyman' plum was a seedling first grown by a Mrs Clyman in Napa Valley, California, 1866 (Waugh, 1901). The original chromolithograph on which the illustration in the catalogue is based comes from the 1888 U.S. Department of Agriculture Report.

The Morrisons of Red Bluff Nurseries at Warkworth (Wade, 2021) had a wide range of fruit trees available including the 'Poorman' orange from Sir George Grey. Edward Lippiatt (Anon., 2020) of Onehunga, Auckland discovered by 1880 that the apple 'Northern Spy' was immune to woolly aphis and could be easily propagated (Anon., 1911; Farmer, 1975a). According to McKenzie (1983), Lippiatt's promotion of 'Northern Spy' as a rootstock saved the apple industry of New Zealand from ruin in the late 19th century and was indirectly responsible for saving the apple industries of all other Southern Hemisphere countries. Hayward Wright of Avondale, Auckland is best

known for the kiwifruit cultivar now named for him, still important in all countries where kiwifruit are grown. He also selected important cultivars such as the 'Paragon' peach and successfully advocated for the use of *Poncirus trifoliata* as a rootstock for citrus (Ferguson, 1983).

Apples

'Albany Beauty' is a sport of 'Gravenstein', the fruit having a pink background with conspicuous red stripes. It was found on the property of Mark Phillips, Main Road, Albany, Auckland about 1906/1907. It was listed in the Morrison's Red Bluff Nurseries catalogue of 1911 as a new introduction (Farmer, 1975g).

'Delicious' ('Red Delicious') originated on the farm of Jesse Hiatt, Peru, Madison County, Iowa, USA as a seedling. Propagation rights were sold to Stark Bro's Nurseries, Louisiana, Missouri in 1894 and they released it commercially two years later as 'Delicious'. It was advertised in New Zealand in the D. Hay & Son, Montpellier Nursery, Parnell, Auckland catalogue of 1899/1900 (Farmer, 1974a).

'Dougherty' is thought to be an American cultivar and was first available in New Zealand at the end of the 19th century – from Edward Morrison of Red Bluff Nurseries, Warkworth in 1890 and from D. Hay & Son, Montpellier Nursery, Parnell, Auckland in 1891/1892 (Farmer, 1974q, 1976d).

'Dunn's Favourite' originated at Kew, near Melbourne, Victoria, Australia in the 19th century, selected by a Mr Condor and commercialised by a Mr Munroe. It was in the first catalogue of Morrison's Red Bluff Nurseries, Warkworth about 1890 under the name 'Ohinemuri'. It was also known in New Zealand as 'Dunn's' or 'Munroe's Favourite' (Farmer, 1974g).

'Golden Delicious' was a chance seedling in Clay County, West Virginia, USA. Bewell W. Mullins and his uncle Anderson H. Mullins discovered the apple during the first decade of the 20th century. Stark Bro's Nursery, Louisiana, Missouri bought the propagation rights in 1914. It was introduced to New Zealand in the early 1920s (Fig. 6) (Stark, 1970; Farmer, 1973c).



Fig. 6 Front cover of nursery catalogue, Arthur Yates & Company Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand, 1928. [Horticultural sales catalogues. 1928]. Ref: Eph-A-HORTICULTURE-Yates-1928-01-cover. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22737603. The 'Golden Delicious' apple is illustrated, popularised because of its very different, yellow skin.

'**Granny Smith**' was found by Maria Ann Smith ("Granny Smith"), as a chance seedling, on the family farm at Eastwood, Ryde, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia in the 1860s. Commercial plantings in New South Wales date from about 1900 and nurseries in New Zealand started propagating it from about 1905 (Anon., 1970b; Farmer, 1973i).

'**Gravenstein**' is an old European cultivar dating back to at least the 17th century. It has been in New Zealand since the late 19th century or earlier being advertised by Charles Sonntag, Brockville Nursery, Kaikorai, Dunedin in 1880/1881 and D. Hay & Son, Montpellier Nurseries, Parnell, Auckland in 1891/1892 (Farmer, 1975g).

'**Kidd's Orange Red**' ('**Kidd's Orange**') resulted from one of the first systematic attempts at fruit breeding in New Zealand. James Hutton Kidd, an orchardist and berryfruit grower of Greytown, Wairarapa wanted to combine the flavour of the best English apples with the beautiful skin colour of American cultivars. A seedling of the cross 'Delicious' × 'Cox's Orange Pippin' germinated in 1916. A graft did not fruit until 1924. Initially the new apple was known as 'Delco' but later the name was changed to 'Kidd's Orange Red', sometimes shortened. Propagation

rights were sold to a New Plymouth nursery (Duncan and Davies) for the extraordinary sum of £2000. Hutton's most successful cultivar, 'Gala', was selected from his seedling populations many years after his death (Kidd, 1929; Anon., 1970a; Farmer, 1973g; McKenzie, 1983).

'**Northern Spy**' is an American cultivar from East Bloomfield, Rochester, New York originating in the late 18th or early 19th century. It was reportedly in New Zealand in 1863 and Edward Lippiatt, Albion Nursery, Otahuhu, Auckland brought 'Northern Spy' and many other fruit cultivars to New Zealand in 1865. Lippiatt noted the superiority of the cultivar as a rootstock, being resistant to woolly aphis. 'Northern Spy' was the main apple rootstock for many years (Farmer, 1975a).

'**Oratia Beauty**' is a sport of 'Albany Beauty'. It was found in the orchard of Mate Glucina, Shaw Road, Oratia, Auckland, and was registered as a new apple cultivar in 1932 because the fruit are mottled and flushed overall with red (Farmer, 1975g).

'**Red Dougherty**' is a sport of 'Dougherty' selected by C.F. Bixley, an orchardist of Twyford, Hawke's Bay, in 1928. It has more red skin colour than the parent cultivar and it developed colour earlier in the season. Introduced 1930 (Farmer, 1974q, 1976d).

'**Sturmer Pippin**' ('**Sturmer**') is an old English cultivar from Sturmer, Essex, dating from about 1800. It was advertised for sale in New Zealand in the 1880/1881 catalogue of Charles Sonntag of Kaikorai, Dunedin (Farmer, 1974l).

Apricots

'**Moorpark**' is a very old cultivar which probably originated in Europe. Plants of that name were advertised for sale by Neil McVicar of Nelson in 1850 (Hale 1955; Farmer, 1974k).

'**Newcastle**' is an American cultivar, probably a chance seedling, discovered near Newcastle, Placer County, California, about 1881. D. Hay & Son, Montpellier Nursery, Parnell, Auckland listed it in 1897 as a new cultivar (Farmer, 1975b).

'**Roxburgh Red**' apricot was imported from Australia by Joseph Tamblyn, a miner and then an orchardist of Teviot, Central Otago, about 1867 and

then renamed. It is likely that it is the French cultivar 'Large Early'. Tamblyn called it 'Early Red', because of the fruit's distinctive red blush and it was known in Central Otago as 'Joe's Early Red'. By 1900 it became known as 'Roxburgh Red' but in Australia as 'Zealandia' (Farmer, 1973j, 1976a).

Boysenberry

This originated on the property of Rudolph Boysen of Napa, California, USA. Its exact origin and parentage are uncertain. It was introduced into New Zealand about 1937 and distributed by the New Zealand Fruitgrowers' Federation (Farmer, 1974o, w).

Cherry

'**Dawson Cherry**' is an overseas cultivar – possibly 'Noir de Guben' – which has had several names in New Zealand. It was imported from France by the New Zealand Government towards the end of the 19th century. Eventually, trees were offered to Richard Dawson of Conroys Gully, Alexandra, Central Otago. His property became known as Dawson's Orchard and the cherry took that name (Farmer, 1975d).

Citrus

'**Lisbon**' lemon is of uncertain origin, but it appears to be very similar to a cultivar 'Portugal' grown in Algeria and Morocco. It seems to have acquired the name 'Lisbon' in the United States by 1843. Its date of arrival in New Zealand is unknown but was at least before 1900 (Farmer, 1973d).

'**Meyer**' lemon is named after Frank Meyer who found it near Beijing, China and introduced it to the United States in 1908. Hayward Wright introduced it to New Zealand in the 1920s (Farmer, 1973n; Ferguson, 1983).

'**Poorman Orange**' (New Zealand Grapefruit, Goldfruit) seems to have been imported from Australia (where it had come from Asia) to New Zealand by Sir George Grey about 1855. It was known in Australia as 'Poorman'. Grey gave budwood to John Morrison, Red Bluff Nursery, Warkworth about 1861 and as his trees were grown in isolation from other citrus, the fruit were seedless and the strain became known as 'Morrison's Seedless' (Farmer, 1974f, 1975h; Dawes and Pringle, 1983). The name "New Zealand grapefruit", usually as one word, grapefruit, but sometimes

hyphenated or two words, was being used by 1925 (Anon., 1925a; Turners and Growers Ltd, 1925) and the name “Goldfruit” adopted in 1980 (Anon., 1980).

‘Seminole’ tangelo originated in Florida, USA, in 1911 as a cross by W.T. Swingle between the grapefruit ‘Duncan’ and the mandarin ‘Dancy’. It was released commercially in 1931 and introduced to New Zealand by Plant Diseases Division, DSIR in 1945 (Farmer, 1973m).

‘Washington Navel’ probably came originally from Brazil. An early introduction to New Zealand, probably in the early 1880s, was that of Booth and Sons, of Hairini, Tauranga. A particularly good strain, “Johnston’s navel orange” was imported from Australia by Gordon Johnston, Kerikeri in 1943/1944 (Farmer, 1976e).

‘Wheeny’ is a grapefruit type which originated as a chance seedling in Australia in the mid-19th century. It is named after a planting at Wheeny Creek, near Kurrajong, New South Wales in the mid-19th century. It was introduced to New Zealand about 1930 by Hayward Wright (Farmer, 1974t; Ferguson 1983).

Feijoa

The involvement of Hayward Wright is mentioned as importing plants from Australia (Farmer, 1974c). For more details on the introduction of feijoas to New Zealand see Anon. (1932), Dawes and Pringle (1983) and Ferguson (1983).

Grape

‘Albany Surprise’ is a sport of the introduced cultivar ‘Isabella’. It originated in 1894 or 1895 in the vineyard of George Pannill (not Pannell) at Albany, Auckland. It was recognised because it had thicker branches, larger leaves that were less indented and larger fruit owing to it being tetraploid (Thompson and Olmo, 1963). ‘Albany Surprise’ was being offered for sale in 1898 by the nurserymen Bennett and Green of Khyber Pass, Newmarket, Auckland (Anon., 1925b; Farmer, 1974d, 1976b).

Kiwifruit

‘Hayward’ was selected by Hayward Wright, a nurseryman of Avondale, Auckland (Farmer, 1973h). It was first sold to orchardists in the late 1930s.

It was subsequently named for Wright by Mouat (1958). For fuller details of the arrival of kiwifruit in New Zealand and subsequent development of kiwifruit cultivars see Anon. (1933), Ferguson and Bollard (1990), and Ferguson (2019).

Nectarines

‘Fillery’ was a seedling, probably from a stone of the peach ‘J.H. Hale’, on the property of Mr and Mrs G.P. Fillery, Matakana Road, Warkworth. The stone was planted in 1949, several good crops were produced by 1958 and in 1963 the seedling was named because of the quality of the fruit (Farmer, 1974j).

‘Goldmine’ was one of the most valuable of cultivars originating in New Zealand (Fig. 7). It grew as a seedling of ‘Ansenne’ in 1893 on the property of David Landon (not Loudon) of Claybrook Road, Parnell, Auckland. Hayward Wright, then foreman for D. Hay & Son, Montpellier Nursery, Parnell propagated the tree and Miss Landon, who had taken over the property after the death of her father, named it.

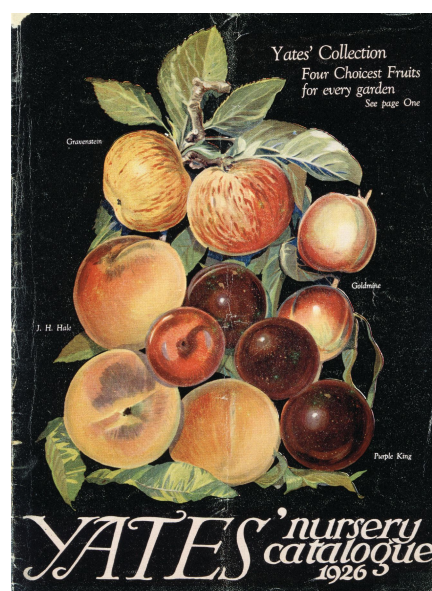


Fig. 7 Front cover of nursery catalogue, Arthur Yates & Company Ltd, Auckland, New Zealand, 1926. [Horticultural sales catalogues. 1924–1927]. Ref: Eph-A-HORTICULTURE-Yates-1926-01-cover. Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, New Zealand. /records/22536893. Four “choicest fruit for every garden” are shown: ‘Gravenstein’ apple, ‘Goldmine’ nectarine, ‘Purple King’ plum and ‘J.H. Hale’ peach. The nectarine and the plum both originated in New Zealand.

It was widely advertised throughout New Zealand in 1899, e.g., the D. Hay & Son catalogue of 1899/1900. It became an important cultivar in both Australia and New Zealand (Wright

1921a; Farmer, 1954b, 1973e).

Passionfruit

The purple passionfruit (*Passiflora edulis*) has been in New Zealand for at least 150 years as it was advertised in the D. Hay’s Annual Calendar and Descriptive Catalogue, Montpellier Nursery, Parnell, Auckland of 1872. The first commercial plantings were at Kerikeri, Northland in 1927 (Farmer, 1974m).

Peaches

‘Black Boy’ is a red-fleshed peach. It may be an introduced cultivar which was then renamed, or it may be a seedling of local origin. First recorded in New Zealand in 1909; it is also listed in the 1913/1914 catalogue of Red Bluff Nursery, Warkworth as being no longer propagated for sale (Farmer, 1962). McGrath Nurseries (2013) have concluded that “Blackboy” is the collective name for about six red-fleshed cultivars imported mainly from France early in the 20th century.

‘Golden Queen’ was a chance seedling growing on the property of Edwin Reeve of Cameron Road, Greerton, Tauranga. David Hay, the Auckland nurseryman, first saw the peach when he was judging fruit at an agricultural show in Tauranga. He purchased sole propagation rights, and it was first sold under the name ‘Reeve’s Golden Queen’ about 1908 but subsequently it became known simply as ‘Golden Queen’. It was consistently a heavy cropper and the fruit excellent for canning (Anon., 1909; Farmer, 1954a, b, 1974e). Farmer had on file copies of letters from D.A. Hay to E. Reeve acquiring the propagation rights.

‘J.H. Hale’ (‘Million Dollar’) was a chance seedling, probably of ‘Elberta’, selected by J.H. Hale of South Glastonbury, Connecticut, USA. Propagation rights were sold to Stark Bro’s Nursery, Louisiana, Missouri. It was introduced to New Zealand by Hayward Wright before 1927 (Farmer, 1954a, 1973k).

‘Kahuranaki’ peach was a chance seedling from Kahuranaki Station, Hawke’s Bay (Farmer, 1954a).

‘Paragon’ peach was grown from an ‘Elberta’ stone planted by the Avondale, Auckland nurseryman, Hayward Wright or possibly Mrs Wright. He propagated and

named the plant, and according to Farmer offered it for sale about 1903 although this seems too early (Ferguson, 1983). It was recommended for many years and was one of Wright's most valuable selections (Farmer, 1954a, b, 1974r, 1976g).

'Victor' originated in Bass, Texas, USA sometime before 1901. It was imported to New Zealand by Thos. Horton, nurseryman of Pahiatua and Hastings, during the second decade of the 20th century under the name by which it was known in France, 'Le Vainquer' (Farmer, 1973l).

'Wiggins' appears to have originated in Texas and it is mentioned in the Georgia Station Bulletin of 1898. It was listed in the 1905/1906 catalogue of D. Hay and Son, Montpellier Nursery, Parnell, Auckland. It was popular in New Zealand until the 1960s when it began to be replaced by 'Redhaven' (Farmer, 1975f).

Pears

'Packham's Triumph' was the product of a breeding programme. It was selected in 1896 by Charles Packham of Molong, New South Wales, Australia and introduced into New Zealand in 1905 (Farmer, 1974p; O'Connell, n.d.).

'Williams' Bon Chretien' is an old English cultivar from the mid-18th century originating in Aldermaston, Berkshire, England, probably as a chance seedling. It was acquired by a Mr Williams, a nurseryman of Turnham Green, Middlesex, England who named it. 'Williams' Bon Chretien' was listed in an unspecified 1872 New Zealand nursery catalogue (Farmer, 1973b).

'Winter Cole' is an Australian cultivar which originated as a seedling with J.C. Cole, a nurseryman of Richmond, Victoria, Australia. One of its parents is probably 'Winter Nelis'. It appeared in the 1892/1893 catalogue of Nairn and Sons, Lincoln Road, Christchurch and in the 1898 catalogue of Edward Morrison, Red Bluff Nurseries, Warkworth (Farmer, 1974h, 1976f).

Plums

'Billington' was a chance seedling which came up in the garden of Joseph Billington, a farmer near Masterton, probably just before World War I. Ebenezer Hale, a Masterton nurseryman budded a number of

trees and when these had fruited, registered the plant under the name 'Billington's Early' (Farmer, 1974s). An earlier account (Farmer, 1954b) is rather different but that published in 1974 is likely to be the more correct as additional information was provided by the descendants of those involved.

'Doris' is another American cultivar from Luther Burbank. It was for sale from D. Hay & Son, Montpellier Nursery, Parnell, Auckland in 1901/1902, only a few years after it was first sold by Stark Bro's Nurseries, Louisiana, Missouri, United States (Farmer, 1976c).

'George Wilson' ('Omega') appears to have been a chance seedling on the orchard of Johnny Parr and his sister Martha Parr on West Coast Road, Glen Eden, Auckland. The tree could date back to about 1915/1916. The family referred to the plum as "Freddie's Own" but Meikle & Sons, who had propagation rights sold it under the name 'George Wilson', after George Wilson, a farmer, who had shifted to Avondale and grew two grafted trees. Hayward Wright sold the plum under the name 'Omega'. In 1937, Webb's Cornwall Park Nurseries, Hastings advertised 'Omega' saying, "This is the same plum as George Wilson." Farmer's account was based on discussions with the Parr and Meikle families as well as Hayward Wright (Farmer, 1973a).

Greengage plums have been in New Zealand since at least 1872 when they were advertised in D. Hay's Annual Calendar and Descriptive Catalogue of 1872 (Farmer, 1974i).

'Purple King' plum was a seedling on the property of a Mr P. Guillard (not Guilard), Rosebank Road, Avondale, Auckland. Hayward Wright was impressed by the seedling in 1915 and had topworked five trees with it before it had even fruited. He named it because of the purple colour and size of the fruit. Trees were first sold in 1921, when Wright had raised a large stock of trees (Wright 1921a, b; Farmer 1954b, 1974n).

'Satsuma', a Japanese plum, was imported into the United States by Luther Burbank, Santa Rosa, California in 1885. It was first sold in the United States in 1899. It was

imported into New Zealand in 1896 and advertised in the D. Hay & Son, Montpellier Nursery, Auckland catalogue of 1899/1900 (Farmer, 1974b).

'Sultan' resulted from a cross ('Wickson' × 'Satsuma') by Luther Burbank. It was offered for sale in the 1902 catalogue of Morrison's Red Bluff Nurseries, Warkworth, with the claim that the stock had been obtained directly from Burbank. It is known elsewhere in the world as 'Occident' (Farmer, 1973f).

'Wilson's Early' ('Wilson') apparently originated with a Mr Wilson, of Eastwood, Sydney, Australia about 1920. It was first listed in New Zealand nursery catalogues in the early 1930s (Farmer, 1975e).

Strawberry

'Captain Cook' strawberry was collected by James A. MacKay of Takapuna, Auckland in 1919 from the property of Harry Wigmore at Mercury Bay, Coromandel. Wigmore had obtained his strawberry plants from a seedsman in Auckland. The fruit had a good flavour but the plants were not true to label. MacKay therefore named the unknown plant 'Captain Cook' because Cook had landed close to Wigmore's property. For many years 'Captain Cook' was the most widely planted strawberry in New Zealand. It is thought to be indistinguishable from 'Phenomenal', a strawberry cultivar at one stage grown extensively in Queensland, Australia and also introduced to New Zealand (Farmer, 1974u, 1975c).

Tamarillo (tree tomato)

The first record of the tamarillo (tree tomato) in New Zealand is in the 1891/1892 catalogue of David Hay & Son, Montpellier Nursery, Parnell, Auckland. The plants were raised from seed sent from India. The resultant plants had yellow- or purple-skinned fruit. William Bridge, a fruiterer of Mt Eden, was given tamarillo seed from South America and one of the seedlings had small red fruit with dark red pigments around the seed. He crossed this plant with one having larger, yellow-skinned fruit. Bridge finally produced a large fruit, with dark red skin and red pigment around the seed. This fruit was first marketed in 1927 or 1928 under the name "New Black Tree Tomatoes" (Fletcher, 1971;

Farmer 1974v). The name “tamarillo” was first used in 1967 (Ferguson, 2020).

Acknowledgement

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