

manufacturing chocolate, ice cream and cosmetics. High-quality pigments and chemicals are derived from the pericarpal sap. Even the shell is of commercial value. Plastics, linoleum and activated carbon are made from it. It was not for nothing that the noted forester and scholar A. Yablokov fought hard to ensure that the black walnut found a second home in the USSR. In Yugoslavia it is regarded as a highly profitable wood, and in the USA they worship it. Small wonder! Each cubic metre of the woods costs five thousand dollars!

In our country we are fully capable of expanding the geographic range of this tree: westwards, northwards and eastwards. A black walnut population has even become established in Moscow - in the Main Botanical Gardens of the USSR Academy of Sciences. After thirty years the trees have grown to a height of ten to twelve metres. Slightly to the south of there - in the Tula, Lipetsk and Voronezh Oblasts - the black walnut is bearing fruit. There is no question that the conditions are entirely favourable for cultivating it in Moldavia, Central Asia, the Ukraine and the Caucasus. Even so, only a handful of specialists and scientists are concerned with this valuable culture.

Of course, it is demanding of special attention. You won't grow it in sand, dry clayey, podsolich and impoverished soils. What are needed are river valleys and floodplains, soils with groundwater lying close to the surface, and piedmont areas. The aforementioned black walnut researcher Dr. A. Alent'ev has drawn up recommendations for the establishment of industrial plantations in the Northern Caucasus. According to his calculations, upwards of 500 hectares can be planted in the region annually. In the Krasnodar Krai a cultivation trial