

Prof. TAFT: From our experience with the Wickson it is a promising plum especially in the milder section of Michigan. It is the largest plum I have ever fruited, weighing three or four ounces on young grafts, and they bear with us a year after grafting; grafted in the summer they bear a good crop the following season, and gave a shoot a foot in length; cut back to that length we allowed three or four shoots to remain, and there the average was three or four ounces. It is a little better quality than Pond's Seedling—a little more rounded, and to my taste, it is better in quality. Of the other Japan plums I believe there are at least a dozen on the market that are really worthy of cultivation. The Red June, and it seems to me the different variety of Red Nugget—some call it the same, but with us there is a difference of probably ten days in the season—and while I have not tried the Hale I think it will be perfectly hardy. The Burbank is a promising plum where you can grow any kind of plum. The great trouble with this plum is that it blossoms a few days earlier than the hardy varieties, and at the same time is a little more tender in the flower, but fully as hardy where they ripen. I was afraid of the Wickson as far as hardness was concerned. It is a seedling of the Kelsey, but with us it has proved perfectly hardy, and seems to me one of the best of Japan plums. The Grand Duke has been a very promising plum. We have fruited it now for five years, and that, with the Black Diamond, Menarch and Kingston are all valuable late plums. It seems to me with you and with us in Michigan it is a late plum we need to grow for profit.

The PRESIDENT: Confirming what Prof. Taft has said, I may say concerning the Wickson that we have grown a great many trees and they have stood twelve to fifteen degrees below zero without injuring the top bud, and I think so much of the plum that I have put out an entire orchard of the Wickson—I am so convinced of its great value for commercial purposes. Other Japanese plums we have found are just as hardy as the ordinary varieties. The only cases in which they were injured at all is the first year, where they make sometimes a very heavy growth, and then the top buds would perhaps be killed back; but after that we had no trouble with that at all. They are just as hardy as the ordinary varieties, and the fruit, in abundance, is certainly good. It comes out of the can in excellent shape and has a peculiar flavor that I think is very attractive. The same may be said of Burbank, which probably is an improvement on the Abundance.

A DELEGATE: What about the Satsuma?

The PRESIDENT: I have never fruited that, but in our section it is perfectly hardy; we don't have any trouble with it killing back.

Prof. TAFT: That is a very productive variety with us, and as most of you know it has a very deep red flesh. The juice is red, and when canned, unless thoroughly sweetened, it has to me a pleasant acid flavour, but it would not eat at all from hand. That is the least liable to be killed in the flower. It blossoms ahead of any of the others that I have tried.

Mr. BURRELL (St. Catharines): My own experience has been this year that the Abundance has been of better quality than the Burbank. I don't know whether there is any difference in the season. We thought the Abundance was a more sprightly, pleasant flavor in every way than the Burbank, which seemed heavy and soggy. I would like to ask Prof. Taft if they have experience in picking plums and keeping them to ripen for some time.

Prof. TAFT: I never picked them before the time of ripening. I pick them just when you would call them ripe. They softened and had a sweeter, pleasanter taste than those freshly picked.

The PRESIDENT: You consider them good for shipping?

Prof. TAFT: I think so. We have not raised enough to ship them any distance, but we have received them from quite long distances in good shape.

Mr. HUGGARD: My experience with the Abundance and Burbank is a little different from the expressions here. We picked some as soon as they would be useful, really before they matured—and we used some of those and found them not very agreeable. About a week later on we picked some more that were more ripe, and some more left on