

territory of the Kropotino forestry enterprise. It is from two of these specimens, felled on the enterprise's property, that the decorative facing of the curtain at the Maikop dramatic theatre has come. But this, unfortunately, is currently the only practical application of the valuable raw material in our country.

Strange as it may seem, it is ignorance on the part of the foresters that is preventing the black walnut from extending its range. This was indicated in the course of a seminar convened this summer at the Kropotkino forestry enterprise. Many participants, some of whom had even travelled there from the Northern Caucasus, learned for the first time from a paper presented by Doctor of Agricultural Sciences P. Alent'ev - a senior scientific co-worker at the Belorechenskii laboratory for the breeding of nut-bearing species - that the black walnut is superior in all respects to oak, beech, hornbeam and other valuable species. Moreover, it grows twice as quickly and is already mature at 50 years. Compared with oak, it yields almost twice as much veneer, but the price is 3.5 times as high. Not only is it more resistant to pests, but what is of prime importance, the texture of black walnut wood is just as good as mahogany, which we are buying for hard currency as facing material. If it were to become widely cultivated in industrial plantations, the furniture manufacturers would have all of the decorative veneer they needed.

Black walnut also confers other benefits. Its fruits are used in light industry, the food industry and for medicinal purposes. The kernal, for example, contains from one and a half times to twice the quantity of oils, proteins and vitamins found in the walnut Juglans regia L. The oil is used in