

round than oval. The color of this is dark green; the kernel of the stone is sweet or bitter in taste. The cultivated, or improved varieties of Uriuck are a larger fruit, often oblong, leaf lighter, but the kernel of the stone is not always sweet, occasionally it also is bitter.

It is the general opinion that the best sugar Uriuck grows in Vjerny, being brought there by the Sartes. These are a people of ordinary intelligence, occupying the lovely fruit-growing and kitchen-garden district. They have also very good vegetables, especially melons. The Sartes brought the sugar Uriuck from South Turkestan. It is a variety much resembling that grown in our European gardens. There are also many other varieties of Uriuck, but there is no great difference between them. They are sold under the name of Gargens, where they were raised. In China there are growing several varieties—but chiefly four, two early and small kinds, known as the Kandak Uriuck and Khasake Uriuck, white, and two late, large, very delicate kinds, Pivande Uriuck and Pchar Uriuck (yellow, with rose blush).

In the outskirts of Vjerny we still meet occasionally with the Black Uriuck (*Prunus Armeniaca*), which grows at the town of Djargent, situated at farthest border toward China. The trees bear large fruit, almost round and almost entirely brown in color. The stone is not free. In taste, it resembles a plum more than an apricot.

The people living in the inland use the Uriuck fresh and dry it for winter. The Russian ladies cook the Uriuck green in sugar until the stone is soft, and, in such a state, it is also pleasant to the taste. The Bucharians dry a great quantity of the Uriuck apricots in the sun, and their trade in this article is large. It is brought on the markets from Northern Siberia and from the governments bordering on the Volga. It is possible to buy dried Uriuck even in the market at Moscow.

But, as a garden tree about Vjerny and the outskirts, the Uriuck is the favorite, on account of its early growth, and its merits for cooking, for which purpose it is largely grown. The wood of the Uriuck is also valuable as a material for wood work. Things made from it are very beautiful, but very heavy.

With regard to the hardiness, a Russian officer who lives in China, Peter Alexanderovsk, writes, speaking of its hardiness. He says: "In the years 1888 and 1889 heavy frosts continued for about two months, from the middle of December until the middle of February. Some days it was -37°F. , occasionally it was $+5^{\circ}\text{F.}$ to -2°F. In February a south wind blew and the thermometer rose one or two degrees. Afterwards it soon fell to -13°F. Notwithstanding such severe changes, only the old trees of the Uriuck were injured, and this not everywhere. Young trees came out all right, just the same as if there had been mild weather. Rich people living inland had no crop, but the poor had every tree full of fruit, and early varieties were very heavily laden. At first view, this is difficult to explain, but the fact is that riches and poverty are measured at China