Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

No. 4.

Established
1856.

1883.

200 Acres in
FRUIT NURSERY.

Fruitland Nurseries,

AUGUSTA, GA.

P. J. BERCKMANS, PROPRIETOR.

FRUITS ADAPTED TO FLORIDA AND THE COAST BELT OF THE SOUTHERN STATES.

HAVING, for many years past, noticed the numerous failures in Florida and on the coast belt of Georgia with plants introduced there from more elevated and colder sections, my attention was long since drawn to the introduction of special varieties of fruits originated in Isothermal zones as likely to ensure more successful results. As such new fruits came in my possession, from time to time, the first trees propagated were sent to competent Horticulturists in various portions of Florida, with a view to test their merits there. From the numerous results of these experiments, which have been conducted for a series of years, some dating as far back as 1858, I have selected a number of varieties of fruits whose *perfect adaptability to the Orange growing zone of Florida and the sea coast belt of Georgia can be confidently relied upon.*

To those persons who have not heretofore dealt with us, we will say that every tree which we offer in this list has been grown in our Nurseries on high upland, and for size and vigor of growth, as well as being perfectly matured before being sent out, we unhesitatingly guarantee them to be of superior quality.

To our numerous friends in Florida, whose liberal patronage for more than twenty-five years has been steadily on the increase, we return our sincere thanks, and hope that our efforts in securing these new fruits for their benefit will be acceptable.

TIME OF TRANSPLANTING AND EXECUTION OF ORDERS.

Nearly all the trees offered in this list have but a comparatively short period of rest in their vegetation, and should therefore be transplanted as soon as possible after the fall of the leaves. This will increase their chances of living, and give much better results than late planting. We would therefore urge upon our friends to *order trees in November and December*, and not delay until February, when many of the trees are beginning to grow here, and cannot safely be shipped.

Packing in best manner and delivery at Express Office or Railroad Depots in Augusta, free of charge.

Damage by delay in transit, after a proper shipment by us, is at purchasers' risk, and claims for such must be made to forwarders.

Terms, invariably cash with the order, or C. O. D. (collect on delivery) by Express collecting charges to be paid by the consignee.

Special quotations will be given for quantities of 1,000 or upward.

The following Catalogues will be Mailed Free on application:

No. 1. DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE of Fruit Trees, Grape Vines, Strawberry Plants, Evergreens, Roses, Flowering Shrubs, issued in August.

No. 2. SPRING CATALOGUE of Bedding and Greenhouse Plants, issued in February.

No. 3. WHOLESALE CATALOGUE for Nurserymen and Dealers only, issued in July.

No. 4. FRUIT TREES AND PLANTS, adapted to Florida and coast belt of Southern States, issued in August.

Address

P. J. BERCKMANS,
AUGUSTA, GA.

APPLES.

PRICE OF TREES.

Standard Trees, 2 and 3 years old, 5 to 7 feet, 20c. each; \$15 per 100.

" " 1 year old, 4 to 6 feet, very fine, 15c. each; \$10 per 100.

Dwarf Trees on Paradise stocks, 1 year from bud, 25c. each.

" " " 2 and 3 years, well formed, 50c. each.

The following have succeeded in the upper sections of Florida :

ASTRACHAN RED—Large, yellow and crimson, juicy, crisp, acid, a fine, showy fruit. Ripens in Middle Florida middle of May.

EARLY HARVEST—Large, bright yellow, tender, juicy and fine flavor. Follows above in maturity.

EARLY RED MARGARET OF THE SOUTH, OR STRIPED JUNE—Medium, yellow and crimson, and dark red stripes, sub-acid and high flavor. Ripens immediately after Early Harvest.

FAMILY—Medium, brown red, striped, high flavor. June.

HOMONY—Medium, red, juicy, fine flavor. Beginning of June.

HORSE—Large, green, sub-acid, fine for cooking. June and July.

RED JUNE—Medium, bright red, very fine. June.

RHODES ORANGE—Medium, red on orange ground, sugary, fine.

SWEET BOUGH—Large, yellow, sweet. June.

SUMMER QUEEN—Large, yellow, striped red, sub-acid. June.

ALMONDS—SOFT SHELLED.

Price of Trees—1 year from bud, 5 to 6 feet, 25c. each; \$20 per 100.

" " 2 years, strong, 5 to 6 feet, 40c. each.

PRINCESSE and SULTANA—Both are prolific and very good. These are the varieties mostly cultivated in Europe, and produce the bulk of the almonds of commerce.

The following are new varieties, originated in California. All have fruited in our grounds, are of best quality and very prolific; KIMBALL, NEWHALL, STANDARD, GAPIN'S No. 3, and GAPIN'S No. 4. Of the last varieties, only one year trees are in stock.

APRICOTS.

One year old trees, 4 to 6 feet, 25c. each; \$20 per 100.

BREDA, BLACK, EARLY GOLDEN (DUBOIS,) LARGE RED, MOORPARK, ST. AMBROSE.

ERYOBOTHRYA—JAPAN MEDLARS.

One year old plants (all pot grown) \$1.50 per 12, per 100, \$10.

Two years " " 25c. each.

The loss in transplanting open-ground grown plants is always large, this is trifling in using pot-grown plants.

This fruit is well adapted to the coast belt, and is being cultivated there with profitable results.

FIGS.

One year old plants, very strong, 25c. each; \$15 per 100.

Two years old " " 40c. each.

The most desirable varieties can be supplied in quantities. Among these we name BROWN TURKEY, BRUNSWICK, CELESTIAL, GREEN and BLACK ISCHIA.

The following are all good amateur varieties: ANGELIQUE, BLUE GENOA, LEMON, MADELEINE, WHITE MARSEILLES, WHITE NERI.

GRAPES, Native.

For full Description, see Catalogue No. 1.

We will furnish 12 strong vines in 12 varieties, for table use, our selection, for \$2.

	Each	Per 12	Per 100		Each	Per 12	Per 100
CONCORD & CLINTON	10c.	1 00	4 00	GOETHE, WILDFR. }			
HARTF'D PROLIFIC	15c.	1 50	6 00	ELVIRA, MAXA- }			
IVES	15c.	1 00	5 00	TAWNEY, BRIGH- }	25c.	2 00	10 00
DELAWARE	25c.	2 00	12 00	TON, BLACK EA- }			
MARTHA	25c.	2 00		GLE, BARRY			
SCUPPERNONG.....	10c.	1 00	6 00	LENOIR & NORTON'S			
THOMAS.....	15c.	2 00	10 00	VIRGINIA, best red			
TENDERPULP.....	15c.	2 00	10 00	wine grapes.....	25c.	2 00	12 00
BERCKMANS (pink,)	} Hybrid varieties of Dr. Wylie, and of excellent quality. 50c. each; \$4 per 12.						
PETER WYLIE (white,)							

GRAPES (FOREIGN.)

The following have been successfully cultivated in many sections of South Florida. Price, each, 25c.; per 100, \$15.

BLACK HAMBURG.

WHITE SWEETWATER. (Chasselas blanc.)

Our vines are excellently strong, and free from Phylloxera, the insect not having so far appeared in this section.

JUJUBE (Zizyphus Sativa.)

A thorny shrub, producing fruit resembling the Date in appearance. Price, 25c. each.

ORANGES AND LEMONS.

Extra fine plants, one year from bud, and all pot grown. Can be shipped at any time. Price, \$1 each. Stock consists mainly of following varieties, recommended by Fruit Growers' Association of Florida: Dulcissima, Exquisite, Mandarin, Magnum Bonum, Maltese Blood, Homosassa, Nonpareil, St. Michaels, Lemons.

MULBERRIES, EVERBEARING.

HICKS—Wonderfully prolific, fruit sweet, insipid, excellent for poultry and hogs; fruit produced during four months. Each 25c.; per 100, \$20.

DOWNING'S—Fruit of a rich, sub acid flavor; not as prolific as above. 25c.

STUBB'S—A new variety, producing very large fruit of excellent quality. 25c.

WALNUTS OR MADEIRA NUTS.

Strong Trees, 4 to 5 feet, 50c. each; 3 to 4 feet, 25c. each.

WALNUT, EARLY BEARING (*Juglans Præparturiensis*.)

Of very Dwarf growth, produces a fair size nut when but two feet high. Three year old trees, 50c. each; 2 years old, 25c.

PEACHES.

The following varieties belong to the CHINESE TYPE, and have proved successful in sections of Florida where varieties of the Common or Persian type failed. Price of trees, 4 to 6 feet, each 15c.; per 100, \$12; per 1,000, \$100.

ALBERT SIDNEY—Medium, oblong, yellowish white, with red cheek; flesh melting, juicy and of highest flavor, freestone. Middle to end of June.

HONEY—Medium, oblong, creamy white and crimson cheek, very sweet and juicy; freestone. Beginning of June.

GENERAL LEE—Medium to large, oblong, creamy white, with carmine wash, flesh melting, high flavor. Clingstone. End of June.

STONEWALL JACKSON—Almost similar to General Lee in size and quality, but a week later.

SPOTTSWOOD—Large to very large, white with a carmine wash; flesh melting, juicy and of high flavor. Freestone. Middle of June.

THURBER—Large to very large, with crimson mottling, juicy, melting, and of excellent flavor. Beginning of June.

The period of maturity is based upon reports from Middle Florida.

PEEN-TO, or PEACH OF CHINA.

This remarkable Peach originated in our Nursery from pits sent from Australia in 1869. Although very hardy here the tree has produced fruit but very seldom, owing to its habit of blooming in January. In Florida, however, this tree has succeeded admirably. In Pensacola it produced the enormous amount of 1,200 peaches upon a three year old tree. Reports from Florida state that this Peach, together with the *Honey* and the several sub-varieties of the *Chinese Cling* and *Free*, succeed there when the other varieties of the common, or Persian Strain, prove of little or no value. Fruit 2 to 2½ inches in diameter, very flat, skin pale greenish white, with a beautiful mottled red cheek, peels readily at maturity; flesh very finely grained, juicy and dissolving with a delicate almond aroma; quality best; clingstone. Maturity in Florida from May 1st to 20th.

Shipments, made from Florida to Philadelphia early in May of this year, brought the enormous price of *seventy five cents per peach*. This would prove its value for the orange growing belt, and we feel gratified in having added this profitable Peach to the list of successful fruits of Florida.

Price of trees 25c. each.

In addition to above, the following varieties of the PERSIAN TYPE have given excellent results in many sections of upper Florida:

ALEXANDER—Above medium, highly colored in clay soils, less in sandy sections, flesh greenish white, very juicy, vinous and of excellent quality, adheres somewhat to the stone. Maturity from May 10th to May 24th, in Middle Florida. Synonyms, AMSDEN, WATERLOO, etc.

AMELIA—Or Orangeburg June—Very large, white, with a crimson cheek, juicy, melting and vinous. An enormous fruit of finest appearance, and bringing highest prices in market, but too tender to carry far and apt to split open on the tree; has succeeded finely in East Florida.

ASPARAGUS.

CONOVER'S COLOSSAL—A variety attaining very large size. \$1 per 100; \$6 per 1,000.

PEARS.

Price of trees, Dwarf, 1 year, 25c.; 2 years, 35c.; Standard, 1 year, 25c.; 2 years, 45c. Reliable reports from many sections of Florida show the early varieties to be successful there. The following varieties are named as having given good results:

ON QUINCE STOCKS—Doyenne D'Ete, Howell, Beurre Giffard, Ott, Osband's Summer, St. Michael Archangel, Duchesse D'Angouleme, Beurre d'Anjou, Beurre Superfin, Seckle.

ON PEAR STOCK—Bartlett, Belle Lucrative, Flemish Beauty, Clapp's Favorite.

NEW HYBRID PEARS.

KIEFFERS—Origin near Philadelphia, where the original tree, now 14 years old, has not failed to yield a large crop of fruit for nine years past. It is a seedling of *China Sand* Pear, supposed to have been crossed with Bartlett. So far it has been entirely blight proof. Fruit medium to large, affecting the ovoid or egg shape; skin yellow, with a bright vermilion cheek; flesh brittle, very juicy, with a marked musky aroma, quality very good. Matures in its place of origin from September to October; will undoubtedly be in season here about end of July to beginning of August. Tree very vigorous, healthy foliage, and in every respect similar to LeConte, except that its leaves are more narrow. Succeeds best upon the pear stocks. It bids fair to become as popular as the LeConte, which it surpasses in quality and in appearance. One year old trees Standards, \$1 each.

LECONTE or CHINESE PEAR. Supposed to be a hybrid between the old *China Sand* Pear and a cultivated variety. Fruit large, pyriform, skin smooth, pale yellow, quality good; maturity middle of July to middle of August; tree of remarkable vigor and rapid growth; foliage luxuriant; has so far, been entirely free from blight; extremely prolific; fruit ships well, and has been sold in the Boston and New York markets at very high prices; a very valuable fruit. 50c. each for trees, 5 to 6 feet; \$40 per 100.

CHINESE AND JAPANESE PEARS.

While none of the varieties of this class are of a quality that will admit them among our good table sorts, yet they are so wonderfully healthy, of such luxuriant growth, and very prolific in fruit bearing, that they may be used in the production of seedlings from which a new race of good pears will doubtless be derived. From the crossing of these varieties with our leading sorts, we may, ere long, expect a new race of Pears, combining great vigor of growth, entire freedom from blight, with great fertility and good quality of products. They are offered solely with this end in view, and we believe them, therefore, worthy of the attention of progressive pomologists.

The varieties are all of the type of the old *China Sand*, but with still larger leaves. Fruit is much esteemed for preserving.

DAIMYO—Very large. Ripens October.

MIKADO Medium, round, russety. September.

MADAME VON SIEBOLD—Small. September, October.

Standard Trees, 1 year old, \$1 each.

QUINCES.

APPLE or ORANGE—25c.

ANGERS—25c.

CHINESE—50c.

PLUMS.

Price of one year old trees, 4 to 6 feet, 25c.; \$20 per 100.

The varieties of the Improved Chickasaw type are all prolific bearers and but very little liable to the attacks of the curculio. They are of great value, both for market and home use. Out of the large collection now in cultivation the following are the most desirable.

DE CARADEUC—Medium, round, yellow, with brown cheek, juicy, sweet and of fine flavor. Beginning of June.

WILD GOOSE—Large, oblong, bright vermillion, red, juicy, sweet and of good quality; follows the above in maturity. A most prolific bearer and valuable shipping fruit.

These Plums can be picked when they commence to color, and will stand a four days' carriage. When reaching market they will have acquired their brilliant color,

The PEACH LEAVED and NEWMAN'S mature later, and are valuable to lengthen the season.

JAPANESE PERSIMMONS.

(DIOSPYROS KAKI.)

Two fruit seasons just passed have satisfactorily settled the question as to the value of this fruit for the cotton growing belt of the Southern States, where the tree is entirely hardy. The merits of this fruit are the early bearing age of the trees as well as wonderful fertility, as it is quite common to see one year old trees planted in Spring produce a crop of from 20 to 50 well developed persimmons the following year. This precocity of overbearing should be checked by removing the largest proportion of its fruit when fully set in April or May, and leaving only a number commensurate with the age and size of the tree.

The fruit of all the varieties described is of a bright orange red or light vermillion color; in shape and general appearance resembling a large smooth tomato. The flesh is soft, with a pleasant, sweet, slight apricot flavor. It begins to color when half grown, but should be allowed to hang on the tree until just before a frost is expected, or in the case of the early ripening varieties when fully soft. If gathered before a frost there is a slight astringency next to the skin, but this disappears after being kept in the house a few days or weeks. If allowed to be slightly touched by frost the flavor is much improved, but the fruit will then not keep many days. It is therefore desirable to gather the fruit before frost if intended for keeping, and then some varieties will remain sound until January.

There are many varieties of the Persimmon raised in Japan; some are eaten in a fresh state, others are used for drying. Samples of dried Persimmons have been sent from Japan, and they are equal to the best Smyrna Figs, but with a peculiar and pleasant aroma. The varieties differ in size and shape, while some are very large and round and of the size of a large orange, others are conical in shape, and others are quite flattened.

We have quite a large stock of trees grown in our Nurseries here, still the difficulty of securing sufficient wood for grafting will cause our stock to fall short of the demand; to supply this we have again ordered largely from Japan, and, as trees are there now grown of a quality much superior to that formerly obtainable, we can fully recommend them to be true to name and of excellent quality. *Grafted trees* alone are of any value. *Seedlings* seldom give good results as not over three per cent., prove to have perfect flowers, the others being male and thus barren: specimens of the fruit grown here have nearly all been seedless.

Price of trees, home grown, 2 to 3 feet, 75c.

" " " " 4 to 5 feet, \$1.00.

" " imported from Japan and expected in December. \$1 each,

AMONG—Round, somewhat flattened, bright vermillion; average diameter 3 inches. This is one of the most prolific and thrifty growing kinds.

- KUROKUMO**--Round, nearly globular, orange red ; average 2½ inches. Of rather dwarf growth and liable to overbear and exhaust itself at first production. Fruit should be thinned so soon as set.
- HYAKUME** or **POUND**--This variety as fruited has the following synonyms, viz: *Seedless Tenanoshi*, *Minokaki*--Very large, round, a little flattened, deep orange red ; average diameter 3½ inches. Seedless.
- HACHIYA**--Oblong 2½ by 4 inches, light orange. Fruit upon young trees is predisposed to drop before maturity. This variety is mainly used for drying. Its synonyms are *Yomato*, *Imperial*, etc.
- ZINGI**--The smallest of the list, globular, deep orange red, very good. Matures during October.

STRAWBERRIES.

FOR family use the plants can be cultivated in regular beds, with the rows sufficiently apart to cultivate the ground thoroughly, or along garden walks. Manure the ground well and plough deep before planting; ashes are very good as a top dressing. After the crop is gathered, keep the soil well stirred and always free from weeds. If you expect a large yield of fruit, give the soil liberal manuring.

We have tested hundreds of varieties and find but few that will give general satisfaction. Locality influences this fruit more than any other cause, and we cannot therefore depend upon the same variety thriving equally well in different soils. The following varieties, however, will be found suitable to most soils. All have perfect blossoms

LEADING MARKET VARIETIES.

- CHARLES DOWNING**--Large bright crimson, quality best ; succeeds everywhere, although not so prolific as some others, it suits all soils. Per 100, 75c.; per 1,000, \$4.00.
- KENTUCKY**--Large, irregular, and bad color sweet, quality very good, in demand when known in a market. Prolific. Per 100, 75c.; per 1,000 \$4.00.
- MONARCH OF THE WEST**--Very large, pale red, not of the first quality but very prolific, early and of vigorous growth. A profitable market variety as it is the earliest to ripen. \$1 per 100 ; \$5 per 1,000.
- SHARPLESS**--Very large, irregular, deep red, sweet and of very good flavor. Vigorous grower and prolific. A valuable market variety as the berries are uniformly large. \$1 per 100 ; \$5 per 1,000.
- WILSON'S ALBANY**--Large, always regular, high flavor, subacid, prolific, vigorous grower. No variety combines more qualities, after 25 years trial everywhere it stands unsurpassed for market or family use. \$1 per 100 ; \$5 per 1,000.

Our stock of plants of the above varieties is very large and unmixed. Prices for 5,000, 10,000 or upwards on application.

SELECT NEW AND OLD VARIETIES FOR AMATEUR CULTURE.

Price, 25c. per 12 ; \$1 per 100, except where noted.

- BIDWELL**--Large, long, light red, quality best, colors evenly and very vigorous; a promising new variety. \$2 per 100 ; 50c. per 12.
- CAPTAIN JACK**--Medium, deep red, second quality, but very prolific and profitable for market in some soils.
- CRESCENT**--Large, bright scarlet, of good flavor and very prolific, if cultivated near other varieties, as its flowers are pistillate ; a very vigorous grower, and under favorable circumstances a very valuable market sort.
- DUCHESSE**--Large, regular, bright red, good quality, should be grown in hills.
- GLENDALE**--Large, oblong, deep scarlet, high flavor.
- LONGFELLOW**--Large, oblong, deep crimson, sweet, very good. 50c. per 12.
- MINER'S PROLIFIC**--Large, globular, deep crimson, quality very good, vigorous and prolific and valuable for certain soils.
- PIONEER**--Large, long, bright red, quality best ; a beautiful variety requires high culture.

SETH BOYDEN—Large, regular and of very good quality, an old but still desirable variety.

TRIOMPHE de GAND—Large and regular, quality unsurpassed; as an amateur variety it has no superior, but requires high cultivation.

WARREN—Large, beautiful and of good quality.

Time of Ordering Plants.

Plants can be furnished in small quantities during September and October, providing the season admits of their being dug. If the weather is very dry during these months we cannot fill orders until there is sufficient rain to moisten the soil.

Large orders can be filled after October 15th.

Ornamental Department.

TEN ACRES are devoted to this branch. The mildness of our climate allows us to grow numerous classes of BROAD LEAVED and CONIFEROUS Evergreens, which need glass culture further North. Availing ourselves of this as well as the great facilities at hand in propagating, we are able to offer a larger number and variety of these plants than any other establishment in the country.

We call special attention to our collection of Azaleas, Camellias, Cupressus, Retinosporas, Biotas, etc., as most suitable for sub-tropical planting.

ROSES

Are a specialty in this Department. The plants which we send out are grown in open ground, are very strong and healthy. The usual average height of Hybrids is four feet, and many varieties attain six feet in height. Plants are cut back eighteen inches or two feet to reduce bulk in packing. We have had for upwards of twenty-six years the reputation of growing the strongest plants offered in market, and we wish it distinctly understood that at the price quoted there is little margin for profit left, and do not enter into competition with growers who offer plants at less than half our rates. We desire a comparison of our plants and prices with the low priced collections offered by some growers, and we feel assured that the advantage will be vastly in our favor.

PRICES.

Purchasers' selection, 25c. each; \$3 per dozen.

Our selection of varieties, \$2 50 per dozen, all distinct.

Our selection of varieties, \$15 per hundred, all distinct.

For description, see Catalogue No. 1.

Greenhouse Department.

THIS branch of our establishment is now the largest and most complete in the South. For this department a special Catalogue (No. 2) is published on the 1st of February of each year. The increasing demand for Greenhouse Plants has enabled us to keep up with the march of progress, and induced us to cultivate a very large and varied stock of Plants, not only of the favorite classes usually found in greenhouses, but also Plants of the newest introduction. Our facilities for propagating large quantities of healthy stock, and the saving of fuel, enable us to offer Plants at unusually low prices.

WATERMELON SEED.

AUGUSTA or RATTLESNAKE, \$2 per lb.