

New Almond Variety Released

a good pollinizer for Nonpareil with good nut quality, tree growth, yield, available for general propagation

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Davey, a new almond variety with good tree growth, yield, and nut characteristics has been released for general propagation.

It should fill the need for a good pollinizer for Nonpareil, the most important commercial variety.

Apparently the Davey is more tolerant of high sodium—salt—content in soils than the Texas—Mission—variety.

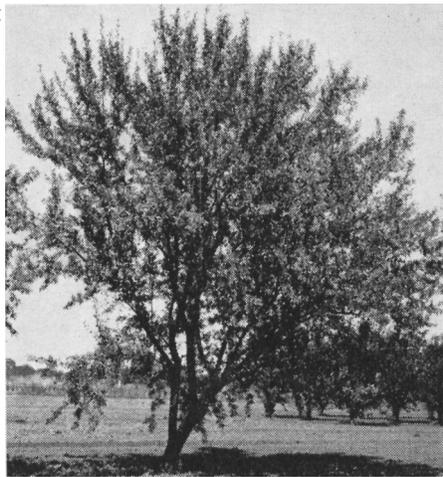
The Davey—tested as seedling 3-3—was one of more than 15,000 seedlings of known parentage developed under an almond breeding program which operated between 1923 and 1947.

The new variety resulted from a cross of the varieties Nonpareil and Sans Faute made in the spring of 1936. Seedlings of the cross were grown first at Davis and in 1939 were moved to the University's Wolfskill Experimental Orchard near Winters. When the seedlings came into bearing, one tree designated as 3-3 was selected as being outstanding. This variety was brought out of the Winters yellow-bud virus quarantine area through a three-year quarantine isolation plot procedure completed in 1948. Since then it has been under test in the principal almond producing counties throughout the state of California.

Tree Characteristics

The Davey is a vigorous tree of upright habit which can be pruned to desirable form for orchard operations. Its blooming time at Winters has been practically identical with that of Nonpareil. Both varieties bloom just after the middle of the blooming range of common varieties. Comparison of time of bloom with commercial varieties is shown in the table on this page.

Hand pollination tests have demonstrated that the Davey is a good pollinizer



Original tree of the Davey variety grown at the Wolfskill Experimental Orchards at Winters. Tree shape is noted by the general upright habit.

for Nonpareil and that Nonpareil pollen is effective in setting crops on it. Similarly, tests indicate that the Davey is interfruitful with the varieties Jordanolo, Ne Plus Ultra, Peerless and Texas—Mission—although blooming dates of these varieties do not overlap those of the Davey as well as is the case with Nonpareil. The original tree at Winters has borne consistently good crops.

Up to date none of the disorders known as bud-failure, crazy-top, or mule-tail have been identified in trees of the Davey variety, although it has not been tested long enough to be sure of its immunity from such troubles.

Nut Characteristics

Nuts of the Davey variety mature early, about the same time as Nonpareil. They are relatively easy to knock and hull. They classify as soft shells with kernel content averaging from 50% to 55% in

test lots cracked over the past several years. The percentage of double meats has been low. The kernels are medium in size, light colored, smooth, attractive in appearance and of good texture and flavor. They are similar in shape to Nonpareil kernels but usually thicker and more wedge-shaped. Blanching quality is considered good, intermediate between the blanching qualities of Nonpareil and IXL.

The nuts, as grown at Winters, usually have had attractive, light colored, smooth, thin, well sealed shells. They have been suitable for sale in the shell most years, although some years the shell is rougher and less attractive. It is believed that nuts of the Davey variety will have good market quality for sale as kernels and in the shell. The nut has some of the good qualities of several standard varieties including Nonpareil, IXL, and Drake, and is believed suitable for many of the same uses as these varieties. However, it is not identical with any of these varieties and should be kept separate in harvesting.

Propagating Material

A limited amount of grafting wood of the Davey was available for distribution this past winter. Most of the potential supply will be from young trees in the grower co-operative test plots located in Tehama, Glenn, Colusa, Butte, Sutter, Solano, San Joaquin, Stanislaus, Merced, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo counties.

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The breeding program from which the Davey variety resulted was operated jointly by the University of California and the United States Department of Agriculture.

Comparison of Time of Bloom for the Variety Davey with Other Commercial Almond Varieties

Variety	1948		1949		1950		1951		1952	
	First	Last	First	Last	First	Last	First	Last	First	Last
Ne Plus Ultra . . .	Jan. 26	Feb. 26	Mar. 7	Mar. 18	Feb. 19	Mar. 3	Feb. 17	Feb. 26	Feb. 18	Feb. 27
Peerless	Jan. 30	Feb. 26	Mar. 7	Mar. 18	Feb. 20	Mar. 4	Feb. 19	Mar. 7	Feb. 20	Feb. 29
Nonpareil	Feb. 11	Mar. 1	Mar. 10	Mar. 21	Feb. 23	Mar. 5	Feb. 25	Mar. 11	Feb. 26	Mar. 1
Davey	Feb. 15	Mar. 1	Mar. 11	Mar. 21	Feb. 25	Mar. 7	Feb. 24	Mar. 9	Feb. 26	Mar. 2
Texas (Mission). .	Feb. 17	Mar. 2	Mar. 14	Mar. 22	Feb. 27	Mar. 8	Mar. 6	Mar. 13	Mar. 1	Mar. 7