REQUESTED INFORMATION REPLY ON HOW NPGS
GERmplasm RECEIVED WAS USED:

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Question #1.

Our local trial test garden located in McKinleyville, Ca., makes use of both private sourced and
NPGP scion wood to make bench grafts of select fruit varieties that are then planted in field nursery
rows. The newly grafted trees are then grown for a number of years to be evaluated for growth
rates. Field notes are made and then compiled for each year of the field observations made over a period of time so as to
be able to verify over five to eight years that the data collected is consistent and reliable. Some data
collected has come from 110+ year old trees here on the farm that still are producing fruit.

The name of the fruit varieties being sought to enrolled in the trial garden come from a compiled
and edited lists collected from: (1) oral history of local long term owners of old family orchards
found on local farms/ranches and senior gardeners home plantings: (2). A lengthy compiled lists
developed by reading published reference sources like Hooper’s “Western Fruit” -1858; Beaches’
“Apples of New York” 1904; Ragans’ USDA bulletin no. 54. 1905; “Fruit, Berry and Nut Inventory
2nd. and 4th. editions, and recently the new publication “The Illustration History of Apples in the
United States and Canada” the quarterly publications of the Oregon Home Orchard Society;
articles and reports, and reprints of same found on web postings of home garden fruit/food
production in the Northern Cal and Pacific Northwest areas of Oregon, Washington and the B.C.
coastal Canada area. This geographic areas seem to have a close climate match to our own. We are
looking for classic books for pears and filberts varieties for our reference library to assist the project.

Selection of fruit varieties for the trial test garden are based on the following characteristics:
seasonal fruiting period ( late May/mid June; late June-early Aug.; Mid Aug. to late Sept.;
October; and Nov. to Jan.); fruit taste and fruit flavors; fruits with high content of Vitamin “C”,
fruit sugar, (high fruit sugar varieties can be used with other varieties to reduce or eliminate the use
of additional sweeteners), and reported antioxidants content; a fruit ability to be stored a long time
without refrigeration; fruits flesh color such as yellow/gold/orange/green/white and pink & red
flesh; how the fruit can be used such as fresh eating, baking/pies/cakes/breads/sauces/fruit
butter/juices/cider/cooking brandy; dried fruit uses; and varieties with fruit flesh that does not turn
brown when exposed over time to air.

We hope to complete our field notes input within the next eight to ten years, or possibly earlier
depending on what can be discovered at several old local orchard plantings.

Question #2:

No, the trial garden did not release any NPGP plant material last year to any one. All material was
used at the trial garden site.
Question # 3:

No articles have been published to date mentioning trial garden work based on NPGP plant material kindly provided. We do share information collected and some time fruit sample examples of outstanding yearly trial garden performers to local retail nursery managers on requests. The managers/owners can then make their own evaluates and find a supply sources for varieties they are interested in offering for local retail sales.

This project origin can be traced back to a few local residence discussing the gardening void that had developed from lack of dependable unique fruit varieties often used for specific culinary use purposes by older relatives and friends in the early 1990’s. The discussions often touched on the inability to find certain fruit varieties at any local retail stores or farmer markets. These same fruit varieties that were at one time often found in family orchards of their old senior family members and friends ranches and farms that was once grew in the region. Over the passing years, individual gardeners and long term County residence would come across one of these missing varieties and share a fruit sample of one of the fruit varieties that was earlier recalled in previous discussions, and visits with senior members of the family owning the local farm the current trial garden is located on.

The small trial test garden simply seeks to obtain, trial, evaluate, and identify the best producing varieties for our area and call out those varieties that are poor performers in our local micro climate. The end result of this project is to be able to compile a list of fruit varieties local gardeners can review that may assist the gardening public in making better fruit variety selections tailored to there needs in our micro climate in a sustainable manner. This data will likely be use to select and replant fruit varieties in the farms old orchard some day in the future.

While reading the USDA-ARS research postings on the web, I found a report of work conducted in developing a new type of apple root stock resistance to apple scab and powder mildew. The posting echoed reported finding in Germany of a natural bridge graft between two tress resulting in resistance being transferred to that tree branch above the graft some a few years earlier. The trial garden would like to experiment with a few of the new apple root stock developed when available for release and sale. Maybe this new root stock might impart some disease resistance to scab and powder mildew plant pathogens to varieties showing good fruit promise except for the disease issues. These two fungi issues have caused some varieties to be placed on the pull dump and burn pile list that otherwise seemed to do well, and could possibly be kept in the trials on the new root stock.

Thank you for helping the trial test garden project with fruit varieties some private sources could not supply scion wood cuttings at the time we tried to order specific varieties.

I will contact you later to make sure you received this information, thank you for your time.

Best regards, - Mel