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SONG NEWS

The Newsletter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers and
The Eastern Chapter of the Society of Ontario Nut Growers

WWW.SONGONLINE.CA

The **SONGNEWS** is published 3 - 4 times per year by: SONG/ECSONG. Any submissions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor, Bruce w. Thurston, RR # 2 Branchton, ON N0B 1L0 b.thurston@silomail.com or Nut.trees@grimonut.com

NUTS ABOUT HEARTNUT COOKING

This unique cookbook is the only book dedicated solely to the heartnut. The book is priced at $12. Please add $3.50 for mailing. For special quantity price, contact: Gordon Chinnick, Treasurer, 722 6th Concession Rd, Walsingham, ON N0E 1X0

SONG Website: www.songonline.ca
Be sure to check it for updates on meetings, read about nut farming, post your nuts or nut products to sell online. Send your free posting to: Ernie Grimo, President, 979 Lakeshore Rd, RR3, Niagara/Lake, On L0S 1J0 or: nut.trees@grimonut.com

Inside This Issue **Page**

Library Corner - Gord Wilkinson

This part of the page is now open to members who would like reference information or articles written by NNGA or SONG/ECSONG members. Gordon has a nearly complete set of NNGA Annual Reports and a complete set of SONG News issues to research.

SONG/ECSONG Archive

Have you visited ECSONG? Click the tab at the bottom of the SONG website to see the work that was done there? If you click on the SONGNEWS tab, you will be impressed to find all SONGNEWS issues from the beginning of SONG in 1972. Enthusiastic members of ECSONG did this for all members and visitors alike. There is plenty of reading there for the new as well as old members. Enjoy!

Have you renewed for 2021?

It's time for your annual membership. Check your envelope for the year you are paid up. You can renew for 2021 now! Please renew now!

ECSONG WINTER MEETING & AGM (VIA ZOOM)

ATTENDANCE: All are welcome and it's free. Please send your email address to gwilkinson001@gmail.com to receive the ZOOM link.

WHEN: Saturday, January 30th 2020 from 2:00 to 3:30pm.

WHERE: At your computer on ZOOM.

WHAT: 40 minute ZOOM question and answer session with Ernie Grimo followed by a second 40 minute ZOOM session for the ECSONG AGM and, time permitting, a 10 to 15 minute PowerPoint visual tour of Gordon Wilkinson's menagerie of nut trees.

SONG WINTER 2021 ANNUAL TECHNICAL MEETING
CANCELLED DUE TO COVID

SONG 2021 SPRING AUCTION MEETING AT THE KING HERITAGE & CULTURE CENTRE
PLEASE CHECK WITH THIS WEBSITE FOR PERIODIC UPDATES. IT WILL ONLY GO AHEAD IF THE PROVINCE DEEMS IT SAFE TO HOLD MEETINGS.

Target Canker in Black Walnut

The fungal pathogen *Neonectria ditissima* causes target canker. I am only finding it in Black Walnut. The following are hosts for this pathogen. alder (*Alnus*), apple/crabapple (*Malus*), ash (*Fraxinus*), aspen/poplar (*Populus*), basswood/linden (*Tilia*), cherry (*Prunus*), dogwood (*Cornus*), elm (*Ulmus*), filbert (*Corylus*), sweet gum (*Liquidambar*), hawthorn (*Crataegus*), hickory (*Carya*), holly (*Ilex*), hornbeam (*Carpinus*), hophornbeam (*Ostrya*), horsechestnut/buckeye (*Aesculus*), magnolia (*Magnolia*), maple (*Acer*), mulberry (*Morus*), oak (*Quercus*), pear (*Pyrus*), quince (*Cydonia*), redbud (*Cercis*), sassafras (*Sassafras*), serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), sourwood (*Oxydendron*), sumac (*Rhus*), tupelo (*Nyssa*), walnut (*Juglans*) and willow (*Salix*). **Cont'd on page 9**

SELECTING THE BEST WALNUT TREES by Ernie Grimo

It takes many years of growing Persian walnut selections to determine the best trees to grow in our region of Ontario. At the Grimo Nut Nursery we have been studying our trees to determine the best. All trees are grafted cultivars selected from NNGA members and from other world countries in Europe and Asia. We are in zone 6b or on some climate maps zone 7a, so winter hardiness is not a selection criterion we can address here.

Since we are close to Lake Ontario, we have a distinct advantage for growing Persian walnut trees. Lake Ontario has a moderating effect on our climate. Since Lake Ontario is very deep 86 m (283 feet) compared to Lake Erie averaging 19 m (62 feet), it does not freeze over in the winter like Lake Erie. Winter conditions cool the surface water of the lake. This near freezing water is heavier than the warmer water below and sinks. Convection currents allow warmer water to rise to the surface, taking a long time for the water to freeze at the surface. Cold north winds are warmed by surface water, thus moderating the winter. In spring the opposite occurs when warm winds are cooled by the cold surface water making springs cooler than inland. The result is a warmer winter and a cooler spring that delays bloom and leafing out of trees.

Persian walnut trees are subject to early leafing unlike its cousin the native black walnut. The black walnut has 'learned' to delay leafing out, and as a result it is one of the latest trees in our forests to go into leaf thus protecting it from late spring frosts. Persian walnut has not adapted to this and so are subject to having the opening terminal buds damaged. These terminal buds contain the female flowers that produce the nuts. The tree recovers by leafing from buds behind the frosted terminal, but these buds do not contain female blooms. Later leafing cultivars like 'Broadview' have an advantage over other selection in this regard. 'Broadview's late leafing and late male blooming are significant qualities. It is one of our two selections that are protandrous, providing timely pollen to all other Persian selections.

We select our trees for heavy annual nut production of high quality nuts. We have removed seedlings and some grafted selections over the years because they do not measure up in production or other qualities. We get good annual production from 'Combe', 'Young's B1', 'Ames', 'North Platte', 'Coble 2', 'Broadview', 'Sejnovo', 'Dooley hybrid' and some others. Disappointing selections include 'Cascade' and 'Chopaka' and others since removed.

Walnut blight, *Xanthomonas arborical*, is the most significant disease in the growing of Persian walnuts. We have noted that there is quite a range of susceptibility among selections. We seldom have a crop that is not infected by blight on 'Northern Prize', while 'Ames' right beside it is moderately free of blight. Both trees were obtained from the Iowa State University experimental planting at Ames, Iowa. This year we had a crop on 'Northern Prize' due to the dry conditions that prevented spread of the bacteria. A dry spring at bloom and beyond is important to maintaining control of this bacteria. In the 2020 crop year we did not spray our trees, but the crop of 2019 was infected due to the frequent spring and early summer rains, even with spraying.

California is in an enviable position for the growing of walnuts. They seldom have rain during spring and summer and so blight is not common. We on the other hand need to spray with copper oxychloride or other products as listed in 'Publication 360' under 'Tree Nuts'. Spray is required before each rain to reduce infection. In some years it may take 4 or more sprays to maintain control. The Persian walnut cousins, Black walnut, butternut and heartnut are almost unaffected by this disease.

Some trees are affected less by walnut blight, but none are completely blight free. The ‘Dooley Hybrid’ appears to have the greatest resistance. Even most of its seedlings do not show damaged new growth from this bacterium. This may be because its black walnut parent is resistant. Trees that show good blight tolerance include ‘Combe’, ‘Ames’, ‘Young’s B1’, ‘Sejnovo’, ‘North Platte’, ‘Bauer’, ‘Broadview’ and Greenhaven.

Nut qualities are not included in our criteria for selection. Since the selections are chosen first for the nut characteristics of filling, flavor, ease of cracking, etc., no further evaluation is needed for these qualities.

Bill Reid in Kansas now retired was in charge of the Kansas University Field Station. He once reported that the walnut husk fly was not able to penetrate the husk of some black walnut trees and so were not able to lay eggs in the husks of these trees making them resistant to husk fly attack. I suspect that this is true of some Persian walnut cultivars, though I have not followed this up to identify specific cultivars. Normally 2 or 3 strategically spaced insecticide sprays in August and early September, laced with sugar as an attractant is enough to kill the flies before the eggs are laid.

Winter hardiness is an important concern for Persian walnut growers. I once tried to grow ‘Chandler’ the most important cultivar in California. The tree survived for 3 years but died back each year from winter injury. When it died, it was smaller than the year I planted it. California walnut stock was taken from southern European sources and lacked hardiness for northern conditions. Hardier selections came to Canada from northern European Countries including Poland, Russia, the Ukraine and other regions of Asia where it was move from its native region on the “silk road”. The walnut adapted to the climates after centuries of trial and error.

The Niagara area is not a test area for Persian walnut from these sources. We usually consider the tree hardiness based on where it originated. ‘Dooley hybrid’ is considered superior in hardiness because of its black walnut grandparent. ‘Broadview’ was a seedling from Russia, ‘Ames’ survived in Ames, Iowa. ‘Bauer’ was a seed descendant from George Corsan’s distribution of walnuts, surviving north of Stratford, Ontario. ‘Young’s B1’ was a ‘Broadview’ seedling. ‘North Platte’ originated in North Platte Nebraska where prairie winters can be severe. Some trees like ‘Combe’ from Utah do not have a known origin but demonstrate hardiness locally.

Summer drought is an issue for some trees. We had several clones that have died back to the trunk after twenty or more years of age. This happened with ‘Lake’, ‘Papple’, and Hanson’. The leaves dropped in late August and the crop finished in October as usual. We no longer produce these clones. Other selections performed as usual, showing good signs of drought tolerance.

Sudden dieback following a normal winter can occur. This happened with ‘Broadview’. This unexplained occurrence has happened with other trees in cold areas, but I have no explanation for ‘Broadview’, a seemingly hardy tree. I continue to propagate it since it is one of our pollinizers.

A less important consideration is early leaf drop. Some selections like ‘Broadview’ drop their leaves early in the harvest season before all nuts are down. The leaves litter the ground and make the harvest more difficult. We blow the leaves away from the area to complete the harvest.

Our favorite selections have changed over the years, but we continue to evaluate them for nut qualities, productiveness, drought tolerance and disease resistance.

Grimo Hazelnut Breeding Project Year Three by Ernie & Linda Grimo

Our year 1 Hazelnut breeding project of 2019 (reported in issue 115 September 2019) produced 26 full sib seedlings of 'Gibson S15' x 'Gamma' and 2 full sib seedlings of 'C. heterophylla' hybrid x 'Gamma'. It was disappointing that more seed was not produced by our original breeding plan.

We made several changes for the second breeding year to improve our seed production. The plastic cover was replaced with Tyvek, a material that allows moisture to pass through but not pollen. Since hazelnuts are not self-fertile, we did not remove the catkins from the breeding trees. We decided to use a brush to apply the pollen to the flowers when they were receptive rather than the air blast original idea. We also covered the 5 'Gamma' trees and 4 partner trees separately rather than together as in the original plan. These changes resulted in a much more successful year 2 project.

We obtained the following number of seed from the year 2 crosses. They are stored in moist peat moss in plastic bags in a refrigerator in an insulated barn to stratify them. We did not separate the nuts that appeared empty. That figure could be as high as 30%. Numbers may be higher than normal because of the pollinizing conditions. 'Gamma' x 'C. heterophylla' hybrid -1 nut (poor results because C. heterophylla pollen blooms very late and Gamma was past receptivity), 'Gamma' x 'Aldara' -83 nuts, 'Gamma' x 'Northern Blais' -35 Nuts, 'Gamma' x 'Alex' -14 nuts, Gamma x Slate -32 nuts. We did not use pollen from Gibson S15 because we did not have a pollen source of it in the orchard. These crosses produced a total of 165 nuts

The reverse crosses were 'C. heterophylla' hybrid x 'Gamma' -42 nuts, 'Gibson S15' x 'Gamma' - 19 Nuts, 'Aldara' x 'Gamma' -167 nuts, 'Northern Blais' x 'Gamma' -73 nuts. These crosses produced 301 nuts. More nuts were produced on fewer trees.

The seed will be planted in May of 2021, covered with chicken wire hoops to protect the seed from wildlife and left to grow for 2 years.

For our year 3 project for 2021, we will repeat what we did in winter of 2020. We will take the same five potted 'Gamma' trees and cross them with the 3 potted layered selections and 2 orchard selections. We will be unable to use the C. heterophylla potted tree because the main stem broke off after harvest and we only have a few new suckers left on it.

Branches with catkins will be taken from orchard trees, placed in small containers of water in paper bags and forced to release pollen inside at room temperature. A separate brush will be used to make each of the following crosses. The pollinizers for the 5 'Gamma' trees will include 'Aldara', 'C. heterophylla' hybrid, 'Northern Blais', 'Alex', and 'Dermis'. 'Gamma' pollen will be used to pollinize the first 3 above potted trees along with 'Gibson S15'.

Meanwhile we will solicit grower members of SONG and the OHA to plant the trees in zones 4b, 5 and 6a. The trees will be provided free to these co-operators. They will own the trees and the nuts produced except for a 300 gram sample from the best selections to be sent to the Grimo Nut Nursery for evaluation by the fifth and subsequent years. The participants will be contracted and expected to care for the trees and maintain identification of the progeny. This will be a ten or more-year project.

The seedling germplasm will remain the property of Grimo Nut Nursery. The nut crop will be the property of the volunteer growers. The growers must agree to do the following:

- Plant the trees at the grower's expense, in orchard spacing and map or identify the cross(es).
- Manage the trees by controlling weeds, fertilize, water and prune as needed.
- Harvest nuts from trees individually and record weights, nut size and nut fill from the best trees. Tag or identify the selections for future comparison. List other qualities too.
- Report results & forward a 300 g nut samples of the best trees to Grimo Nut Nursery Ltd by December 31 of each year.
- The grower will produce layers of each selected tree for Grimo to plant & assess.
- All reproduced layers, cuttings or tissue produced trees from the selected best trees are the property of Grimo and may not be distributed to other growers without Grimo consent.

Tyvek isolated hazelnut

Planting around Walnuts

Understanding the site to be landscaped or developed into a garden is the first step in assuring successful plantings. Identifying your trees and shrubs will help avoid problems with allelopathic toxicity among your future landscape and garden plantings. General tips for planting around black walnuts include:

- Locating gardens well away from black walnuts.
- Creating and plant in raised buds to reduce root contact. This will require lining the bed to reduce root contact using weed fabric and filling the raised bed with new topsoil.
- Improving soil drainage with organic matter additions
- Preventing leaves, hulls, and stems from decomposing near planting areas.
- Avoiding mulch containing walnut bark, wood, hulls, and leaves.

OMAFRA has a bulletin which lists the many plants and trees which can and cannot exist with Juglone producing trees.

Paul Crath's Story *(continued from SONG NEWS September 2020)*

Polish Government Interested in My Activity

During the time of my activities, in the town of Kessiv, there used to live a famous physician, Dr. Tarnawski. Outside of his clinics he was much interested in the welfare of the country. My activities could not be hidden from his sight. "What does that "American" see in our nuts? Are there in America no nuts?" he asked. Soon I was introduced to him. It was in the fall of 1934. He was not well and in bed at that time. He liked to talk with me about the walnut culture and wished to know why I was collecting the nuts, scions and seedlings for Canada. And then it seemed to him impossible that there in Ontario and the northeastern states English walnuts were not yet cultivated. Then I turned his attention to the fact that in Poland they know little about their own trees. My challenge awoke him to activity, and through his intervention Starosta, the county governor, planted the first twenty-five acres with walnut seedlings along the south side of the highway leading from Kessiv to the town of Kooty.

Dr. Tarnawski wrote also an article to a horticultural magazine on English walnuts on what he learned from me.

When in the fall of 1936 I was going back to my home in Toronto, Dr. Tarnawski wrote about me to the Department of Agriculture in Warsaw introducing me to the minister. I had an opportunity to give a talk on the Carpathian English walnuts in the presence of many horticulturists in the Government Experimental Farm at Skieerniewice near Warsaw.

Late in 1936 I came back to Canada and till the Second World War continued to cultivate the Carpathian walnuts and other horticultural material brought by me from Western Ukraine.

The Second War cut me off from my field in Europe.

A decade and a half has passed. The Carpathians have been acclimatized, have grown, and have been bearing nuts in Ontario. When such success has been achieved, it seems that there in Canada all the enterprise is forgotten. Of course, the Carpathian walnuts could not advertise themselves. They are "dumb critters."

In the States the situation with the Carpathians is entirely different. Interest in them is growing steadily, and as I said previously the American nurseries have already put the Carpathians on the broad market.

In 1950 at the annual meeting the Northern Nut Growers Association made me an Honorary Member of the Association.

In 1951 the Association held a contest and the "Crath" Carpathians won most of the prizes.

Culture of Crath's Carpathian English Walnut Trees

1. *Propagation by seeds*

Pick up the largest and heaviest nuts from a certain tree. Dry them in a windy place, but not in the sun. Gather the nuts into a jute bag and hang for the winter in a dry and cold place protected from squirrels.

Around May 14th put the nuts into a vessel with lukewarm water, soak about one week.

Prepare a bed of rich soil manured previously with horse manure. The land should not be of a wet kind. Plant the nuts in rows, 6 inches nut from nut, and two feet, row from row. Protect your nursery from squirrels.

In a week or two the nuts should come up.

Keep the nursery free from weeds. It will protect the seedling from the buffalo tree hoppers. If the signs of the bacterial disease are detected spray the seedlings at once.

For the first winter leave the seedlings as they are in the field. The next spring dig them up. Cut off the leading root of each plant and transplant the seedlings again in rows a foot apart seedling from seedling and two feet row from row.

The amputation of the leading root causes the seedling to grow up instead of down and will make them start to bear nuts earlier.

In Europe instead of cutting off the walnut seedling's main roots they put under them a flat stone, or start in an earthen pot.

The next spring the walnut seedlings are ready for the permanent planting. Being permanently transplanted they should be cultivated at least two or three years.

Whitewash the walnut trunks in the late fall to protect bark from bursting by the winter sun. Put a screen around the trunks to protect them from mice and rabbits. Though, if a walnut is gnawed by rodents do nothing about it, the tree will produce a stalk—a new one—from the root.

Paul Crath’s story will continue in the next issue.

Cont'd from page 2

Symptoms & Disease Cycle

Neonectria distissima typically colonizes susceptible trees through old branch stubs. Perennial cankers then develop on the main trunk and slowly develop over many years, sometimes with seemingly little effect on the overall health of the tree. *Neonectria* expands cankers when the host is dormant in spring and fall. When the host is active during the growing season, it produces corky rolls of callus and bark in an attempt to close the wound. After many years of this back and forth response by host and pathogen, the cankers take on a target-like appearance. Target cankers rarely girdle stems more than a few inches in diameter. Like most cankering fungi, *Neonectria* does not degrade wood, instead it consumes sugars in the phloem. However, the cankers become points of entry for wood-decaying fungi, such as the sterile conk rot fungus, *Inonotus obliquus*, on birch. Trees and shrubs with many trunk cankers can also suffer failure when exposed to strong winds or heavy snow loading.

While *N. ditissima* often colonizes old branch stubs, infections can also occurs at leaf scars, cracks in branch axils, sunscald lesions, and other wounds to the bark that expose the cambium. One year old cankers are small, discolored areas that are flattened relative to adjacent bark, and only visible on thin-barked branches and stems. Most spores produced by the fungus are wind- and rain-dispersed during the spring and fall from established cankers. Small masses or individual red to orange fruiting structures can appear from autumn to spring on the margins of expanding cankers. However, in most cases, the fruiting structures are never observed.

Management

Once *N. ditissima* establishes itself in a host, management should focus on sustaining the vitality of the tree or shrub. Remove and discard cankered branches during the winter when the fungus is dormant. Irrigate when conditions are dry to avoid the development of drought stress, fertilize if soils are deficient in minerals, prune to preserve sound branch structure, avoid wounding the bark and maintain a layer of mulch over as much of the root zone as possible.

I Need Your Nuts and Syrups

I gather, process, package, and market indigenous foods- everything from B.C. Red Huckleberries to Cloudberries from Labrador. Primarily I sell to restaurants and stores; however I am now selling some products over the internet through my website: www.wildfoods.ca

Recently I have been able to find and market birch syrup, and despite it's price it has been selling. I now want to expand my range of products to include the various products that can be made from nut trees.

I would like to hear from any SONG members that can supply me with shelled nuts, nut oils, or nut tree syrups. In shelled nuts, I am particularly interested in beechnuts, butternuts, and hickory nuts but I am open to suggestions provided that the products are natural and unpolluted. I am also very interested in buying tree syrups from black walnut, butternut, and hickory trees. At this point, I am interested even in small quantities so that I can test the market for future sales. If you think you can provide me with anything, call me toll-free at **1-877-354-WILD**

CLASSIFIEDS

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In business since 1972, we are the only nursery in Canada that specializes in grafted and layered nut trees and a selection of grafted "orphan fruit trees". All listed cultivars are tested in our own orchards before we offer them for sale. While trees can be picked up at the nursery, we ship fresh dug bare root trees in the spring across Canada and the United States. A selection of potted trees is available during the growing season. Free consultation is offered to customers.

Own rooted (layered or cloned) hazelnut trees are available for commercial growers. Grafted and seedling trees are available of heartnut, Persian walnut, black walnut, butternut, sweet chestnut, hazelnut, pecan, hickory, pine nut, and more including a selection of rare hybrids. Fruit trees offered include pawpaw, persimmon, mulberry, fig and quince. We also sell harvesting equipment, tree shelters, nut crackers & Ontario nuts & nut meats. Our 10-page print catalogue is $1 or two current Canadian letter stamps, **free for SONG members. Our on-line catalogue is updated daily as items are available**. For information or ordering:

www.grimonut.com
nut.trees@grimonut.com
phone: (905)-Yeh-nuts (905-934-6887)
Fax: 905-935-6887 or write:
Grimo Nut Nursery 979 Lakeshore Rd, RR #3
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We have been in active business for over 39 years and Offer cold hardy trees (Climatic Zone 4) and all of the trees were tested in our orchards before offering them for sale. We are the only nursery in North America that offers as many Different varieties of Edible Nut Pines ranging from climatic Zone 1 – 9. We also offer our selection of nut trees and minor fruits. Trees of Persian Walnut, Japanese Heartnut , Japanese walnut, Black Walnut, Butternut, Buartnut, Chinese Chestnut, Japanese walnut, American Chestnut, Hazelnut (bush type), Trazel, India Tree Hazel, Chinese Tree Hazel, Turkey tree Hazel, Hickories (4 different types), Northern Pecan, Beech, hybrid sweet Oak, Ginkgo and others. Edible nut pines that we offer are: Korean, Armand, Swiss Stone, Swiss stone var. Siberica, Dwarf Siberian, Jeffrey, Russian cedar (Pinus siberica), Pinus Siberica f. humistrata, Pinus Siberica f. coronans, Pinus Siberica f. turosa, Macedonian, and others. Minor fruit trees offered include Paw Paw, Persimmon, Beech plum, Mulberry, Chinese Dogwood, Elderberry, Sea Buckthorn, & Cornelian cherry.

We also offer a variety of Rare & Unusual trees & Shrubs. We also offer solid state pest controls and harvesting equipment for sale. We only Spring ship freshly dug bare rooted trees. Pick up can be arranged as well. Please visit our website for our online catalogue for more detailed information about the above listed trees. Those wanting a printed 22 page catalogue are available for $5.00 which is refundable when placing an order. To contact us about ordering:

www.nuttrees.com / rhoras@nuttrees.com, phone or fax 905-899-3508, or write us: Rhora's Nut Farm & Nursery, 33083 Wills Road, R. R. #1, Wainfleet, On L0S1V0

...**MEMBERSHIP** benefits in the Society of Ontario Nut Growers (SONG) & ECSONG (Eastern Chapter of SONG) include three yearly newsletters, along with 3 annual meetings in two regions, set to satisfy the needs of both the commercial growers and the hobbyists. For an added bonus, **new members** will receive SONG'S own nut growing manual, ***Nut Tree Ontario, A Practical Guide,*** a $20 value, **free,** when you take out a three-year, $45 membership. Simply ask for your free copy when joining SONG. For added information, view the ECSONG handbook at:

http://www.songonline.ca/ecsong/ . Fill out the tear off below and send to: **SONG/ECSONG, Gordon Chinnick, Treasurer, 722 6th Concession Rd, Walsingham, ON N0E 1X0 .** Your cancelled cheque is your receipt. **Dues can also be paid by e-transfer to: song.treasurer@yahoo.com** .

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Please send my free copy of ***Nut Tree Ontario, A Practical Guide*** with my **new membership** □

I would like to purchase my post-paid copy of ***Nut Tree Ontario, A Practical Guide***. I enclose $26.00 ($29 US) □