



Fig. 1. Nuts and kernels of 'Solo' almond.

(thick).

Outer shell not attractive, soft, with cracks. Seed coat medium brown, well filled, smooth, even surface, well shaped, very uniform size, consistently without any double kernels. Taste is good, neutral, and slightly sweet. Adapted for confectionery and sugared almonds, and when good sized also for table use (shelled).

*Yield.* Medium to good, about equal to 'Ne Plus Ultra', somewhat below 'Greek'.

#### Availability

Patent pending. Budwood will be available from the authors, at the Volcani Center, Bet Dagan, Israel. Tested virus free budwood will be available in 1977.

*HortScience* 11(3):272. 1976.

## 'Patriot' Blueberry<sup>1</sup>

P. R. Hepler<sup>2</sup>

Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Maine,  
Orono, ME 04473

A. D. Draper<sup>3</sup>

Agricultural Research Service, Plant Genetics and Germplasm Institute,  
Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, MD 20705

*Additional index words.* *Vaccinium corymbosum*, fruit breeding

'Patriot' a new hardy blueberry, *Vaccinium corymbosum* L., originated in the cooperative blueberry breeding program of the Maine Life Sciences and Agriculture Experiment Station and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It has performed well at Jonesboro, Maine, Maryland, North Carolina, and Oregon. The name 'Patriot' was assigned in recognition of the U.S. Bicentennial.

#### Origin

'Patriot', tested as MeUS-32, originated from a cross between 'US-3' ('Dixi' × 'Mich. LB-1') × 'Earliblue' made at Beltsville, Maryland. Seedlings of this particularly vigorous

progeny were planted in Jonesboro, Maine in 1954. MeUS-32 was selected by Dr. Leslie Whitton in 1957.

#### Description

'Patriot' is an upright, relatively open, vigorous highbush, even though one of its grandparents, 'Mich. LB-1', was lowbush, *V. angustifolium* Ait. (3). In Jonesboro, Maine, where minimum temperatures reach -29°C most years, 'Patriot' attains a height of about 1.5 m. In warmer climates, it is typically highbush in growth habit. In Maine, it bears more consistently and with higher yields than other highbush cultivars. Plant survival has also been superior.

'Patriot' has large, slightly flattened fruit that in 1975 averaged 2.6 g (49 per cup) at midharvest, and 2.0 g (70 per cup) in late harvest. The fruit is firm and the scar is very small, dry and recessed. Color is good and the flavor is very good, equal to or superior to other selections or cultivars. It begins ripening between 'Earliblue' and 'Blue-

crop' and with 'Collins'. 'Patriot' may require fruit bud thinning to concentrate ripening and harvest.

'Patriot' is the only known source of resistance to root-rot caused by *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Rands in a commercial type blueberry (1, 2). It is expected to extend northward the range under which blueberries may be grown. It is thus expected to be adapted to home garden and market garden enterprises, particularly in the Northeast. Its use as a replacement variety for commercial plantings has not been determined.

#### Availability

Rooted cuttings were distributed to nurserymen from the Atlantic Blueberry Company, 475 S. Chew Road, Hammononton, N. J. 08037, in the spring of 1976. Plants should be available to growers from nurseries in fall 1976 and spring 1977. Neither the Maine Agriculture Experiment Station nor the U. S. Department of Agriculture has plants for distribution.

#### Literature Cited

1. Draper, A. D., S. M. Mircetich, and D. H. Scott. 1971. *Vaccinium* clones resistant to *Phytophthora cinnamomi*. *HortScience* 6:167-169.
2. ———, A. W. Stretch, and D. H. Scott. 1972. Two tetraploid sources of resistance for breeding blueberries resistant to *Phytophthora cinnamomi* Rands. *HortScience* 7:266-268.
3. Johnston, Stanley and J. E. Moulton. 1967. The Bluehaven and Northland blueberry varieties. *Quart. Bul. Mich. Agr. Expt. Sta.* 50(1):46-49.

<sup>1</sup>Received for publication March, 1976.

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Department of Plant and Soil Sciences, University of Maine, Orono, Maine.

<sup>3</sup>Research Geneticist, Agricultural Research Service, Plant Genetics and Germplasm Institute, Agricultural Research Center, Beltsville, Maryland.