

SYMPOSIUM PAPERS AND AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION TO THE SYMPOSIUM, by Michael H. Dickson, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva.

VEGETABLE FLAVOR, by M. Allen Stevens, Campbell Institute of Agricultural Research, Riverton, New Jersey.

PLANT CONSTITUENTS AS THEY AFFECT QUALITY IN VEGETABLES, by J. P. McCollum, University of Illinois, Urbana.

NUTRITIONAL QUALITY IN FRUITS AND VEGETABLES, by R. S. Shallenberger, New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva.

COLOR MEASUREMENT IN PLANT BREEDING, by F. J. Francis, University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

SYMPOSIUM ORGANIZERS

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SYMPOSIUM

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Quality is rather nebulous and often difficult to measure objectively. This is not surprising since edible quality comprises a number of attributes, both physical and chemical. Some of the components of quality have been measured objectively for a long time; others, such as flavor and aroma, have only recently been measured objectively. Previously they were, and in most cases they still are, subject to personal preferences and prejudices.

For these and other reasons quality has not been a principal objective in most plant breeding programs. Too often the plant breeder, while devoting his major attention to yield and disease resistance, has settled for adequate quality instead of searching for

superior quality. In the opinion of many, the modern varieties of fruits and vegetables do not have the flavor of the older varieties.

It is now time to focus greater attention on quality and the breeder will do well to enlist the assistance and cooperation of other specialists in selecting for factors affecting quality in the broad sense.

This symposium was arranged to arouse interest in the problem and to indicate the current state of knowledge with respect to at least some of the objective methods for determining quality. It is hoped that the ideas and methods discussed in the symposium will stimulate further work in this area of research and ultimately lead to improved quality in horticultural products.