

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
 AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
 CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
 BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND

U. S. HORTICULTURAL STATION
 CROPS RESEARCH DIVISION
 2021 SOUTH PEACH AVENUE
 FRESNO, CALIFORNIA 93727

NOTICE TO NURSERYMEN AND FRUIT GROWERS RELATIVE TO THE NAMING AND RELEASE OF
 A NEW ALMOND VARIETY VESTA

The Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, hereby releases the almond variety VESTA, formerly tested as 16.5-38. VESTA resulted from a cross of a late flowering sport of Nonpareil x 5A-3 [(Nonpareil x Jordan) x Jordanolo] x [(Nonpareil) x (Nonpareil x Eureka)] made at the John Weststeyn ranch at Ripon, California, in 1956. The original seedling was grown at the U. S. Horticultural Field Station, Fresno, California, in plots cooperative with the Fresno State College Foundation. It fruited first in 1960 and was selected by Dr. Robert W. Jones of ARS. It has produced heavily each subsequent year and has fruited in six cooperator's orchards in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys of California.

VESTA blooms at the same time as Nonpareil and pollinates that variety. It is pollinated by Nonpareil. Nuts of the VESTA variety ripen 10-14 days after Nonpareil. Kernels of the two varieties are very similar although those of VESTA are larger. Very few double kernels have developed in VESTA. The shell is soft and can easily be cracked by hand. The suture is closed and tight which makes the kernels much less subject to worm damage than those of Nonpareil. The flavor of VESTA is good.

Trees of VESTA are very vigorous and productive. No signs of the heritable "bud failure" or "crazy top" disorder have been seen in the original tree or trees propagated from it. Since Nonpareil and Jordanolo, both of which are subject to bud failure are involved in the parentage of VESTA, close observation of propagation materials should be made and any suspicious clones discarded. The leaves of VESTA are more resistant to red spider mites than are those of Nonpareil.

VESTA is being introduced because of its consistent production of better kernel quality than other varieties currently being used to pollinate Nonpareil, the principal commercial variety now grown in California. The quality of the kernel of VESTA is ^{nearly} equal to ~~or better~~ than that of Nonpareil. VESTA appears to be ^{as} ~~more~~ productive ^{as} ~~than~~ Nonpareil.

The Crops Research Division has no trees of VESTA for distribution. Limited quantities of budwood or scionwood may be obtained by writing to Dr. Robert W. Jones, U. S. Horticultural Station, 2021 South Peach Avenue, Fresno, California 93727.

Date

5/16/68

Director, Crops Research Division

H. Rex Thomas