



The 'Ohio Pioneer Dotted Hawthorn,' a thornless hawthorn which has been propagated for six years by an Ohio nursery, is now on the market. The cultivar was selected 12 years ago from the nursery of the Secrest Arboretum, Wooster, Ohio.

## Thornless Hawthorn Pioneered In Ohio

A NEW CULTIVAR of a potentially valuable ornamental landscape tree selected a dozen years ago from the nursery of the Secrest Arboretum at the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center has been appropriately named 'Ohio Pioneer.'

Secrest Arboretum Curator John E. Ford describes 'Ohio Pioneer' as a thornless seedling of Dotted Hawthorn (*Crataegus punctata*). The new cultivar has been propagated for six years by an Ohio nursery and is now available commercially. Formal registration of the tree is being made with the Arnold Arboretum in Boston, Mass., which serves as the international registry for cultivated forms of this species.

Ford says Dotted Hawthorn is a native thornapple which grows throughout much of the northeastern U.S. northward and eastward from Iowa and Indiana. It also grows at higher elevations south-

ward along the Appalachian Mountain range.

Normally, the tree is small, seldom growing much more than 20 or 30 feet in height. It has clusters of white flowers in May, and dark red fruits are developed by September or October.

The Dotted Hawthorn, although an attractive tree, has not been widely planted because of the abundant extremely sharp thorns.

In 1962, a thornless seedling of Dotted Hawthorn was found in the Secrest Arboretum nursery at Wooster, Ohio. It had only three small thorns on it at an age of 10 years, and when these were pruned, none reappeared. Credit for selection of the new tree goes to Dr. O. D. Diller, curator emeritus of Secrest Arboretum.

Six years ago, shortly after Ford joined the Arboretum, a horticulturist from Coles Nursery in Circleville, Ohio, saw the trees at Wooster and felt the new cultivar had the best potential of any thornless hawthorn he had seen. He envisioned a whole new market resulting from the new cultivar's introduction. The Arboretum began supplying the nursery with bud sticks from the tree and these were budded on Washington Hawthorn rootstock. Only a low percentage of the resulting budded trees developed juvenile thorns, and these were easily pruned.

Ford says from the nurseryman's standpoint, the 'Ohio Pioneer Dotted Hawthorn' is a good tree to handle because every tree is as uniform as if it had been factory made. Branches are symmetrical and well-spaced and only slight corrective pruning is needed.

The nursery began marketing the new trees for the first time in fall of 1974. In addition, Ford has shipped a number of trees to other arboreta for testing under a variety of environmental conditions. Plants of 'Ohio Pioneer' have been planted at Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University in Massachusetts; National Arboretum, Washington, D.C.; Ida Cason Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga.; University of Minnesota Arboretum; and Dawes Arboretum, Newark, Ohio.

'Ohio Pioneer' trees have been set in the Secrest Arboretum shade tree evaluation plots to determine their best use in urban areas. Ten of the trees have been ordered by the city of Wooster for planting on selected sites along the city's streets.

## Hughes Appointed Director Of Forest Research Staff

Jay M. Hughes, research specialist in forest economics, has been named director of Forest Service Economics and Marketing Research Staff, Washington, D.C., succeeding recently retired H. R. Josephson.

Hughes is a graduate of the University of Colorado with a bachelor's degree in economics and a masters degree in forestry from Colorado State University. His Ph.D. in forest economics was earned at Michigan State University. Beginning his forestry career as an assistant ranger at the Roosevelt National Forest in Colorado, Hughes soon transferred to a position in forest products marketing research at the Forest Service Rocky Mountain Forest and Range Experiment Station in Fort Collins, Colo., later moving to the Pacific Northwest Forest and Range Experiment Station in Portland, Ore., as head of multiple use and production economics research.

In 1966, he turned to academic life with appointment as associate and later full professor at the University of Minnesota College of Forestry. Three years ago, he returned to federal forestry and was appointed director of the Forest Resources Program in the USDA's Cooperative State Research Service in Washington, D.C. In 1972, he was named Chief of Forest Survey in the Forest Service.

## Toro Builds Casting Plant

The Toro Company has announced acquisition of die-casting equipment of the CharLynn Division, Eaton Corporation, Cleveland, Ohio, a major source of aluminum housings used in Toro's rotary mowers.

According to David T. McLaughlin, Toro's president, the equipment will be re-located in a new \$2 million plant to be built in Shakopee, Minn. Construction is expected to begin immediately and to be completed by the summer of 1975, with full production scheduled for the fall of 1975.

The 50,000-square-foot, one-story structure will be located on a recently purchased 10-acre site. Until the new plant is complete, CharLynn will continue to operate the equipment at its facilities in suburban Eden Prairie, Minn., McLaughlin said.