ORIGIN

Highland was selected from a progeny of 119 seedlings of a cross of Bartlett x Cornice made in 1944 by Dr. George Oberle. It first fruited in 1956 and was selected by the author for further test. In 1963, it was made available by the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association for testing under the number, N.Y. 10274. It has continued to look promising, and numerous growers who have tested it have reported favorably on it. So, it was decided to introduce it in 1974. The name, Highland, was chosen following the tradition of naming pears after New York State place names. Highland, in the center of the Hudson Valley fruit area, is the location of the Hudson Valley Research Laboratory which has a long record of service to growers in the area.

TREE

The tree of Highland is medium in vigor and rather upright in growth until the branches are spread by fruiting. It begins fruiting when propagated on seedling roots, at the age of 5 years. On Quince A, bearing has not been especially speeded up, but in a test at Angers, France on Provence quince roots, it fruited in 2 years. It is compatible directly on Quince A, but the trees lack vigor, and this stock is not recommended for Highland. The productivity of Highland has been variable; on seedling roots, it has generally been productive after it starts to bear. On Quince A roots, it has not been especially productive. In the above mentioned test at Angers, on Provence quince, Highland almost doubled the production of Bartlett on similar trees in the first 6 years of fruiting.

Highland blooms on the average, 1 day later than Bartlett, so they overlap sufficiently in season of bloom to pollinate each other. It has been used successfully in controlled pollinations both as a pollen parent and a seed parent with a number of different varieties. Therefore, we know that it produces good pollen and can be pollinated by many varieties.
Highland is as susceptible to fire blight as Bartlett. It also seems to be rather susceptible to injury by pear psylla when pear psylla is not controlled by spraying. In one grower's test, it survived a minimum temperature of -39 F with some injury to the buds and wood but no more so than the injury that was exhibited by Bartlett, Gorham, Aurora, or Maxine. From this, we would conclude that it is at least as hardy to low winter temperatures as those varieties.

FRUIT

Highland is a good sized pear, averaging better than 2½ inches in diameter. It is typically pear shaped (pyriform) and fairly smooth and uniform. In color it is yellow, with some irregular light russet. The stem is rather long, 1 to 1½ inches, and fairly thick. The calyx is normally closed and small. Dots on the skin are numerous, small, brown in color, and conspicuous.

The flesh of Highland is yellowish, mostly fine in texture with some grit cells near the core; it is melting and juicy. The flavor is sweet, rich, and fruity. Quality of this pear is outstanding. In taste tests, it has been rated above Bosc, Dumont, and Anjou. It develops its best quality if given a period of cold storage at 32 F before ripening, and it will keep in cold storage until January.

This variety is normally picked at Geneva about September 29, or 4 weeks after Bartlett. The pressure test, using a Magness-Taylor Pressure Tester with a 5/16 inch tip on the pared cheek, at time of harvest is about 14 pounds.

CONCLUSION

This new variety has been tested rather widely in New York State and other locations as well. Good reports have been received from places as distant as British Columbia, Canada, and France. Most growers have praised its quality. Those who have not had good production with it have grown it on Quince A roots, and it would appear that this variety is not well suited to this rootstock. There is a need for a good dessert pear in this season, and it is hoped that Highland will fulfill this need.

The pear industry in New York State and, indeed, the whole Northeast is based on three varieties: Clapp Favorite, Bartlett, and Bosc, and there is a need for additional good varieties. Although much of the pear industry is directed towards the processing industry, there is increasing interest on the part of some growers in pears for the fresh fruit market. Highland is a pear which will answer, at least in part, these needs.