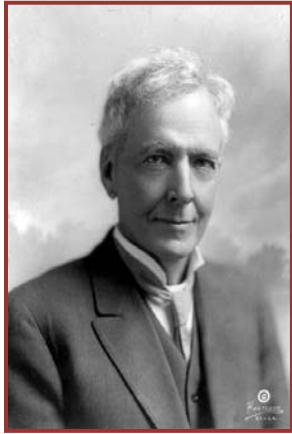


Burbank and His Purpose



If there is one name in American history associated with flowers and fruits, it would be Luther Burbank (1849 – 1926). He was an American botanist, horticulturist and a pioneer in agricultural science, developing more than 800 strains and varieties of plants across his 55-year career. His creations included fruits, flowers, grains, grasses and vegetables.

He was a man who loved nature deeply, and it seemed Mother Nature loved him in return. In the course of his career, he created many new plants – hybrids that made plants more beneficial or beautiful. He puttered around in his garden for 50 years, unlocking botanical secrets.

Burbank made potatoes that grew larger, whiter, and more delicious than ever before. He developed a spineless desert cactus that cattle could fatten upon, and he also caused the blackberry to shed its thorns. He grew plums without pits and strawberries that would ripen year-round.

Trees became more frost resistant, and walnut shells became thinner. Daisies grew more beautiful, calla lilies became more aromatic, and the dahlia was given a new fragrance. The amaryllis gained color, and numerous new flowers were added to the world's greenhouse.

Burbank had a kind and gentle manner, approaching every plant as if it was a child, with its own face, promise and unique character. He saw himself as a man who only encouraged a plant to fulfill God's plan and potential for its life. He knew his own purpose and sought to fulfill it.

God has a plan for your life – a purpose for which you were created. Just as Burbank coaxed new things out of established plants, God leads you and guides you and coaxes you into each new level of growth, always at the right season.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you ... to give you hope and a future” (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).

– Beecher Hunter