

and only prime tree-ripened fruit is offered. There are other similar ventures and they are tending to increase.

(6) Late varieties to ship south. There is a growing interest in the production of late peaches, following Elbertas, for shipment to southern markets — when consumers in these areas are again peach hungry. Some growers in Patrick and Carroll counties have been profitably increasing this practice for several years, and others are considering it.

#### The Broad Picture

Elberta is "the peach" in Virginia.

Its advantages are appreciated. Also, its limitations in quality, in hardiness, in suitability for quick freezing, and in spread of maturity are recognized. As a result, many other varieties are being grown and tried for various purposes. The trends involving these other varieties are still largely in the experimental stage. The varietal picture is not apt to change markedly or rapidly until some of these minor trends prove really profitable to the growers who are testing them.



## National Survey of Plum, Cherry and Grape Varieties

By John T. Bregger, Chairman  
Variety Appraisal Committee

Following the grower surveys of apple, peach and strawberry varieties presented in previous issues of this magazine, we are now in a position to report on other fruits. During 1947 consideration was given to plums, sour and sweet cherries and grapes. These fruits are less widely planted than those previously surveyed but nevertheless are of

considerable commercial importance in certain districts.

The summarized survey data are presented on a regional basis. The southern states are not included due to inadequate coverage and to the fact that the production of these fruits is of minor importance. California has not yet reported.

Commenting briefly on the highlights of the survey, it will be noted that in

the case of two fruits, new plantings will be primarily of a single variety. Even more prominent than the Elberta peach, is the Montmorency sour cherry and the Concord grape. In fact these two varieties virtually monopolize the sour cherry and northern grape industries.

### Plums

In the case of plums, the situation is practically the same in the Northwest with the Italian Prune standing at the top without significant competition. Stanley, however, is in highest favor among most northern plum growers and will soon be a prominent commercial variety throughout the East.

### Cherries

In the sweet cherry, the Windsor ranks first except in the Rocky Mountain and Pacific states where it is hardly grown at all. Next to Windsor, Schmidt and Napoleon rate second and third east of the Plains. In the far West, Bing and Lambert rank first and second

### PLUM VARIETY SURVEY

VARIETY	Rating For New Plantings	
	North Atlantic Region	North Central Region
Stanley	2	1
Shropshire Damson	4	2
Grand Duke	—	3
Bradshaw	—	4*
Italian Prune	1	5*
German Prune	—	6*
Monarch	—	7*
Reine Claude	—	8*
(Green Gage)		
Burbank	3	9*

\* Medium discard.  
Heavily discarded: Abundance, Diamond, Elephant Heart, Lombard, Opata and Yellow Egg.

(vice versa in Utah) with other varieties in much smaller acreage if not in popularity.

### Trend Toward Fewer Varieties

The trend toward the planting of fewer varieties is very strong in all re-

### SWEET CHERRY VARIETY SURVEY

VARIETY	RATING FOR NEW PLANTINGS			
	North Atlantic Region	North Central Region	Rocky Mountain Region	Pacific NW Region
Windsor	1	1	*	—
Schmidt	3	2	—	—
Napoleon (Royal Anne)	2	3	3	*
Bing	*	4*	2	1
Black Tartarian	—	5*	*	**
Lambert	—	**	1	2
Deacon	—	—	4	—
Black Republican	—	—	**	3

\* Medium discard.

\*\* Heavy discard.

Also heavily discarded: Governor Wood and Yellow Spanish.

## SOUR CHERRY VARIETY SURVEY

VARIETY	RATING FOR NEW PLANTINGS			
	North Atlantic Region	North Central Region	Midwest Region	Pacific NW Region
Montmorency .....	1		1	1
English Morello .....	2*	**		

\* Medium discard.      \*\* Heavy discard.  
Also heavily discarded: Early Richmond.

gions. Many varieties of plums in particular are fairly prominent in present plantings but show a medium to heavy tendency to be discarded in future plantings. The same trend is found in sweet cherry varieties with a heavy discard of varieties like Governor Wood and Yellow Spanish, not to mention the Early Richmond sour cherry. The Moore Early grape also shows a heavy discard, probably due to the fact that growers have a newer and greatly superior early variety in the Fredonia to replace it.

In most of the fruits surveyed, there are many varieties mentioned by fruit growers which are of minor importance from a commercial standpoint, but which would deserve discussion if space permitted. These include many old varieties not mentioned in the group of discards and several new ones of definite promise for home use and local markets. Such "home garden" production is small when seen individually, but adds up to a large and important segment of the American fruit industry.

## GRAPE VARIETY SURVEY

VARIETY	RATING FOR NEW PLANTINGS			
	North Atlantic Region	North Central Region	Midwest Region	Pacific NW Region
Concord .....	1	1	1	
Niagara .....	2*	2		
Delaware .....	3	3		
Fredonia .....	4*	4	4	
Catawba .....	5	5		
Sheridan .....	—	—	2	
Golden Muscat .....	—	—	3*	
Worden .....	*	**	—	2
Campbell Early .....	—	—	—	3*

\* Medium discard.      \*\* Heavy discard.  
Also heavily discarded: Agawam, Brighton, Caco and Moore Early.