

NEW GRAPE VARIETIES SERVE DUAL PURPOSE

By C. F. Williams, 1948

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In the past the commonly known varieties of Muscadine grapes were either pistillate (female) or staminate (male) vines. The pollen produced by the commercially important pistillate varieties is collapsed and infertile. Therefore it is necessary that wild staminate types be located nearby or planted in the vineyard. Such vines do not produce fruit and are a waste of space.

Vines With Perfect Flowers

Some years ago Charles Dearing found at the Coastal Plains Experiment Station of North Carolina, some vines which produced perfect flowers. L. R. Detzen of the N. C. Agricultural Experiment Station found others at Raleigh. New vines with acceptable fruits have been developed from these perfect flowered types. Such vines are an important contribution to the southern grape industry because they eliminate the need for the non-productive staminate types in the vineyard.

Six of the selections developed by Mr. Dearing have been named and introduced. The black varieties are: Burgaw, Tarheel, and Duplin. The others, Wallace, Willard and Pender are white.

All these varieties are good, but perhaps the best for general use are Burgaw (black) and Wallace (white). Burgaw, a seedling which came from a cross of Thomas with one of the perfect-flowered seedlings, is much like the Thomas with its sweet but tangy flavor. Wallace has Scuppernong in its

pedigree, and has many of the good characteristics of that variety. Willard is quite similar to Wallace but does not resemble Scuppernong as closely.

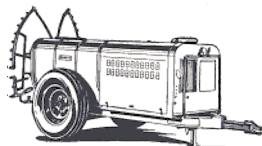
Female Varieties

At the time the six perfect-flowered types were introduced, nine new pistillate (female) varieties were also released. Creswell and Onslow have black fruit, whereas Topsail, Orton, Stanford, Cape Fear, New River, Morrison and Kilgore produce white or reddish berries.

—W.P.J.



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