

ning, which has been practiced for years in many sections of the country.

Quality Characteristics Should Be Studied

Horticultural investigators can make a great contribution to the knowledge of fruit quality by measuring the quality characteristics of existing varieties and of seedlings from parents whose characters for quality are known. In this way the inheritance of these factors can be studied and the resulting information incorporated into the effort to produce varieties of higher quality and usefulness. It seems quite probable that a thorough evaluation of the variety collections now being assembled by sev-

eral amateurs, would show some hitherto unknown quality characteristics that might be valuable as breeding material.

It has been truthfully said that fruits provide some of the most delectable flavors to be found among foods. But we must keep in mind that these delectable flavors are obtained only when all production efforts are pointed toward the maximum fruit quality. So let the amateur, the commercial grower, and the investigator combine their efforts toward supplying the consumers with fruits at their peak of quality, so that they may enjoy and demand these most delectable of all food flavors.



Strawberry Varieties in New Jersey

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The strawberry harvest season begins in New Jersey about May 20 in the southern counties and ends during the early part of July in the northern counties.

The varieties which constitute the greatest acreage are Lupton, Blakemore, Sparkle, Premier, Catskill and Fairfax. Other varieties of importance include Pathfinder, Midland, Joe, Aberdeen, Redwing, and Dorsett. Also a few

Chesapeake are grown on irrigated farms. Most of these might be considered old established varieties. Four of them namely, Sparkle, Pathfinder, Redwing and Midland might be classified as new varieties.

In addition to those varieties mentioned, several others are being planted in small plots for trial and in a few instances on a commercial basis. These include Fairpeake, Temple, Fairland, Robinson, Massey, Redstar, New Jersey 377 and Julymorn.

A few of the old varieties are grad-

ually being replaced by the newer ones for one reason or another. Growers and station workers are keenly interested in how the new sorts compare with the old. The following discussion is a result of observations made in the field during the past few seasons.

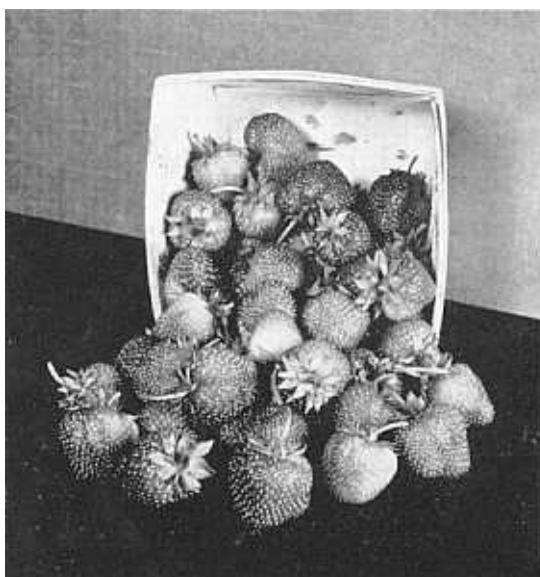
Lupton probably comprises the greatest acreage of any variety in New Jersey. It originated on a farm in Cumberland County. We call it the "Ben Davis" of strawberry varieties and are not proud to list it as our number one variety. Since it ships well and usually brings a good return for the grower, it will probably remain an important variety for some years to come. It is large, very attractive, has dry, coarse flesh and is poor in quality. It grows vigorously and yields fairly well. Lupton is grown mainly in the southern countries.

Blakemore, the second variety in importance, is also grown in the southern counties only. Its bright red color and heavy yields make it an important variety. It is a vigorous plant maker and is well adapted to the sandy soils. In some fields the genetic yellowing has weakened the plants and a few growers have discontinued planting Blakemore for this reason.

Sparkle, a New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station introduction is probably third in importance. Premier is running close to third place, but from observations this season in fruiting fields and new fields we feel rather safe in calling Sparkle our third variety. Sparkle is a bright, shiny, attractive berry, ripening about midseason. It

becomes a bit too dark when fully ripe so it should be picked when bright, orange-red in color. It is fairly firm and has a good calyx. Plants are vigorous and runners are produced freely. Yields have been exceptionally good, and this past season, a critical one, there was much less rot in Sparkle than in Premier, Aberdeen, Pathfinder and Catskill. Sparkle is adapted to the entire state. One complaint we receive from a few growers is that the berries become small too soon after first picking. This is not a serious fault, however, where it is grown properly.

Premier is an important early variety grown mostly in central and northern counties. It is too soft for distant shipping and rots badly during wet seasons. A few growers have discarded Premier because of genetic yellowing. During



SPARKLE, is rapidly developing into an important commercial variety.

normal seasons yields are exceptionally good and it is being planted rather consistently as an early variety.

Catskill is not the important variety it used to be in New Jersey. Only limited acreages are being grown in the southern and central counties because the plants are no longer vigorous. The best fields of Catskill are in the northern part of the state. Plants become weak during the second season and often do not ripen a full crop. We feel that the western yellows virus is the main cause for this lack of vigor. Where it is vigorous, Catskill is a fine variety and well liked by the growers. Many fields are disappointing this season as in 1947 so we can recommend Catskill only where a vigorous source of plants is available.

Fairfax is not being planted heavily because the berries become too dark in color. A few buyers will pay a premium for Fairfax because of its excellent dessert quality. Most buyers, however, prefer bright, red berries. Fairfax is productive, a rather vigorous plant maker and the berries are firm enough for good shipping. The dark overripe appearance is the main drawback.

Pathfinder is an early ripening variety and the first to be introduced by the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. The berries are large, bright red and more tart than Sparkle. It is very productive and the berries remain large in size during most of the picking season. The berries are too soft for distant shipping and it rots badly during wet seasons. In a few fields it is not so vigorous a plant as we like and does

not make enough runners. In most fields where it is grown properly it is a worthwhile early variety.

Midland is one of the more recent introductions of the United States Department of Agriculture. It is the earliest ripening variety which seems to be adapted to the entire state. It ripens with Blakemore in South Jersey. The berries are large and medium dark red with an attractive flesh color. Plants are large and vigorous and yields have been very good. The main fault we find with Midland is that in some fields it does not develop enough runners. In many fields we could not ask for a better stand of plants but in a few, the original plant stands alone. We do not know the reason for this and it does not seem to be a nutritional or moisture problem.

Joe is sometimes called Big Joe and also called improved Lupton. It originated on a farm in Mercer County. The plants are large and vigorous and resemble Lupton, but the berries are distinctly different. Joe is large, bright red, firm and of fairly good quality. Yields are about average and it is being planted on a limited scale each year. The large size and attractive appearance are its main desirable characters.

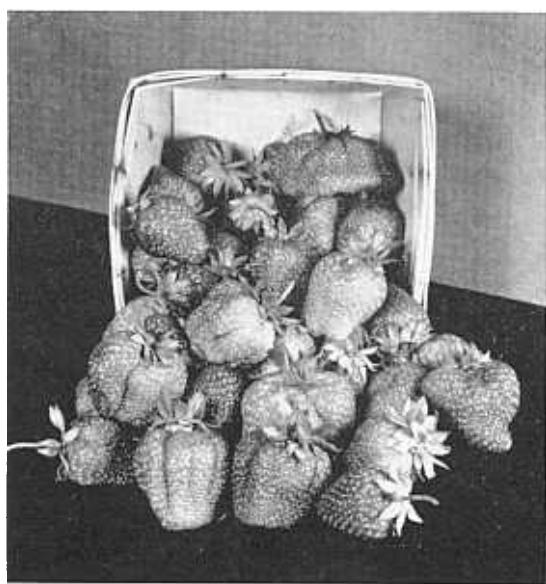
Aberdeen is a midseason variety which originated on a farm in Monmouth County. It is medium to large, light red, attractive berry of fair quality. It is too soft for distant shipping and it rots badly during wet seasons. It is a vigorous growing variety and yields are heavy. Aberdeen is grown mainly in central counties. It became quite

popular when Red Stele disease was discovered in New Jersey since it was the only resistant variety at that time.

Redwing is a New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station variety introduced at the same time as Sparkle. It is grown mostly in the central counties since it is best adapted to heavier soils. It is large, bright red, medium to firm and of good quality. The flesh color is very attractive. The first berries of Redwing are exceptionally large and some buyers complain because of this. It is a vigorous growing variety and produces a medium number of runners. It is not so prolific a plant maker as Sparkle or Temple. Redwing becomes dark when fully ripe so it must be picked often. It ripens just ahead of Julymorn and picks in late midseason.

Dorsett is not so popular a variety in New Jersey as it was in years past. It is difficult to find many vigorous fields. In most plantings, few runners are developed and in general the fields are not productive. It may be that much of the stock of this variety is infected with western yellows. We can recommend Dorsett only if a vigorous source of plants is available.

Fairpeake, a late ripening variety is planted only in trial plots. It is a United States Department of Agriculture introduction and from what we can see in variety plantings it resembles Fairfax except brighter in color. The dessert quality is excellent and it picks easily. Plants are vigorous but do not make as many runners as Temple or Fairland. More Fairpeake is being planted for trial by growers this year.



REDWING, a promising late-midseason variety for heavier soils.

Temple, another U. S. D. A. variety might now be considered of commercial importance in New Jersey. It is the most vigorous growing variety of any in the state and unless carefully grown will become too dense with plants. This is probably the reason some growers complain of light yields. In a few fields, yields were good and the berries held up in the field about like Sparkle. There was not much rot in Temple. The berries resemble Sparkle in shape and size. They are not quite so shiny as Sparkle and seem to be a little lighter in color. These two varieties are quite similar.

Fairland is the most recent introduction of the U. S. D. A. It is a vigorous growing variety, making runners freely. It fruited this year in only a few test plantings. It is a bright colored, uniform berry, quite firm and with a

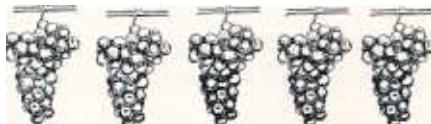
good calyx. It is more tart than Temple or Sparkle and ripens with these varieties. Fairland was as resistant to rot this season as was Temple and Sparkle.

Redstar has been planted in New Jersey for several years but has never shown much promise. It does not produce many runners and as a result most fields have a poor stand of plants. The berries are bright and shiny, with a very showy calyx. The berries are also extremely variable in shape. Because the plants in general do not make enough runners and the berries are irregular, this variety is not being planted to any extent. We need a good late season berry to replace Redstar.

N. J. 377 is a selection which has

been grown by a few growers on a commercial scale since about 1940. It is an early ripening, large, red to dark red firm berry of good quality. Plants are vigorous and have been very productive. This variety has been planted heavily this season and it will probably be named before 1949.

Julymorn is a New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station introduction named with Sparkle and Redwing. It is a late ripening variety being grown mainly in central counties. It is large, firm, tart, dark red berry. The plants are vigorous and develop a medium number of runners. Julymorn requires abundant moisture and grows best on heavier soils. It is worthy of trial as a late berry.



Grape Varieties In A Test Winter

By Herbert Nafziger, Fruit Grower,
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The winter of 1947-48 was a severe one in Berrien County. It proved to be a test winter for several varieties of grapes that are growing on our farm. The site is exceptionally favorable both as to air drainage and soil.

Concord Proves Its Worth

The Concord vines suffered some injury to buds and wood and a few vines

were killed. The Concord vines produced very heavily the previous season. Injury to Concords was apparently not serious enough to reduce the crop very much.

Seneca withstood the test remarkably well, fully as well as Concord. Urbana suffered considerably but promises to produce about one-third of a crop. A variety presumed to be Catawba was severely injured. The one vine of Keuwa was killed back to the snow line. Van Buren vines, which are young and had