

SCARLET, A NEW GRAPE VARIETY FOR FRESH JUICE AND JELLIES

By H. P. Olmo, 1948

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In this bulletin is reported the results of a grape breeding program which was designed to develop a variety which would be productive under California condition and from which good juice and jelly could be obtained.

Concord Not Satisfactory in California

Concord is the traditional variety used in the fresh juice industry. Like many other American-type grapes it does not grow or fruit satisfactorily in the interior valleys of California where high summer temperatures and low humidity often causes the foliage to sunburn. The mature fruit of Concord is of very poor quality, ripens unevenly and makes a mediocre juice.

Scarlet

Scarlet is a hybrid of Golden Muscat

and Teinturier from a cross made in 1935. The name was chosen because of the bright red color of the extracted juice and the early fall coloration of the leaves.

The vine growth is vigorous with long slender canes. Flower buds are produced abundantly. The scattered trial plantings of Scarlet have been too small to furnish reliable yield data but this new variety should prove to be more fruitful than Concord. The leaves are medium in size with petioles distinctly hairy.

Fruit Characteristics

The fruit clusters of Scarlet are medium small, compact to very compact, with no tendency toward seedlessness. The skin is thick, dark blue to black in color, and resists mechanical injury. The berries are very resistant to fruit rots and molds, and hang on the vines and shrivel rapidly when overripe. The fruit ripens in early mid-season. The bright scarlet juice is highly palatable having a flavor similar to Concord, but less pronounced.—W.P.J.

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