

virus disease which has reduced the acreage in New Jersey. In other sections it produces well, but not so well as certain other varieties that are better suited to that region. The fruit is a little larger than Early Black, with a cup count of 80 to 110.

McFarlin is the third in importance, and represents about 8 per cent of the total acreage. Like Howes, it is grown in all regions, but is most important in Oregon and Washington, where it is the principal variety. McFarlin is also important in Wisconsin. It seems to be more subject to fungus diseases than the others, but produces large crops of large berries with a cup count of 50 to 80. The berries mature late and do not color in storage, and must therefore be ripe at harvest.

About 7 per cent of the cranberry acreage is planted to **Searles**, a variety grown only in Wisconsin, where it was selected. It is a midseason variety which colors to some extent in storage, but does not develop so much red as Early Black or Howes. Its cup count ranges from 80 to 100. Searles is the most productive variety grown. In 1948, the yield per acre for Searles in Wisconsin was 99.4 barrels, 100 pounds of fruit per barrel.

Early Black, McFarlin, Howes and Searles represent 78 per cent of the cranberry acreage in the United States. The remaining acreage is set to other varieties, which include the natives—unnamed selections from the wild.

In 1929, Bergman, Bain and Beckwith started programs with the primary goal of producing varieties of cranberries that are less susceptible to False Blossom. Over 11,000 seedlings were grown, and from these, three have been named—Stevens, Wilcox and Beckwith, and 20 are still being studied.

Stevens, a cross of McFarlin x Potter, is a productive, large-fruited, mid-season or late-midseason variety with

a good gloss. **Wilcox**, a cross of Howes x Searles, is also productive, with slightly larger berries than Early Black. Its vines are rather coarse, but harvest well. **Beckwith**, a cross of McFarlin x Early Black, is considerably more productive than Early Black or Howes, but not equal to Wilcox or Stevens. Its berries are larger than Stevens and mature about the same time as Howes. Its uprights are long, and the berries are borne high, making it a variety that is easily harvested.



The Croatan Blueberry

A new blueberry named Croatan was introduced in January of 1955 by the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station and the Bureau of Plant Industry. The Croatan originated as a seedling from the cross Weymouth x F-6 made by the late F. V. Coville.

Croatan ripens later than Angola and Wolcott, but ahead of Murphy. It tends to ripen about 70% of its fruit during the first two weeks of harvest. Its plants are erect, exceptionally vigorous and very productive. The fruit is borne in long, fairly loose, attractive clusters. The berries have been slightly larger than those of Angola, Wolcott, Weymouth and Murphy. The berry is aromatic and sweet to acid, depending upon the degree of ripeness.

The plants of Croatan are resistant but not immune to canker, and are more resistant to bud mite than Wolcott, Murphy and Weymouth.

The Croatan blueberry is recommended for trial as a productive, early, canker-resistant variety for eastern North Carolina, but not northward. Sources of plants can be obtained by writing to E. B. Morrow, Dept. of Horticulture, State College Station, Raleigh, North Carolina.