

GRAPES AND WINE

By A. J. Winkler, 1949

Economic Botany 3 (1): 46-70

There is a wealth of interesting information in this article by Dr. Winkler who is Viticulturist of the Experiment Station at Davis, California. Fruit growers everywhere, and grape growers in particular, would enjoy reading this treatise which reports on the grape and wine industry of the entire world.

Grape production as an industry appears to have started around the southern end of the Caspian Sea sometime prior to 600 B.C. At the present time France, Spain, and Italy lead the world

in acreage with each of those countries having over 3,000,000 acres. Turkey produces grapes on some over 1,000,000 acres with Algeria, Portugal and Russia having a bit over 800,000. The United States is in eighth place with nearly 700,000 acres.

Wine Grapes

The bulk of the world's grapes are used for the production of wine. Italy and France each produce nearly 900,000,000 gallons each year. The United States produces less than 3 per cent of the wines of the world, averaging slightly over 100,000,000 gallons each year. Many types of grapes are used for wine. Certain varieties such as White Riesling, Semillon, Cabernet Sauvignon and Muscat impart unique flavor and bouquet to wine and have become world famous as a result.

Raisin Production

Raisins are another important usage for grapes. To be a good variety for this purpose the dried product must possess a soft texture, little tendency to become sticky, seedlessness, a marked pleasing flavor, and large or very small size. Only the varieties Thompson Seedless, Muscat of Alexandria, and Black Corinth meet most of these requirements. California produces about 40 per cent of the world's raisins.

Table Grapes, Juice and Canning

Many varieties are used for fresh consumption as table grapes. They must be attractive in appearance and pleasing to the palate. Large size, brilliant color,



Courtesy Wine Institute of Calif.
Scene in California Grape Vineyard.

and unusual form are generally appreciated.

Sweet juice grapes are those varieties of which the juice produces an acceptable beverage when it is preserved by pasteurization or germproof filtration. The juice must retain the natural fresh-grape flavor. Most *vinifera* (California) varieties lose their fresh flavor and acquire an unpleasant cooked taste. The strong-flavored American varieties, particularly the Concord, are less affected by pasteurization. This fact largely accounts for the general use of the Concord for juice in the United States.

The Thompson Seedless is the only variety which is commonly used in canning for the production of fruit salad and fruit cocktail.

Cultural Information

This article continues with a rather complete discussion of cultural and pruning methods, disease and insect control, harvesting of the crop, and wine making.

W. P.

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GROWING GRAPES IN IOWA

Anonymous, 1948

Iowa Ext. Bul. P. 90. 16 p.

Although this bulletin is apparently intended to cover the entire subject of grape production, eleven of its thirteen pages of text are concerned with pruning and training. Brief notes are included on varieties, planting, soil management, and insects and diseases.

Varieties

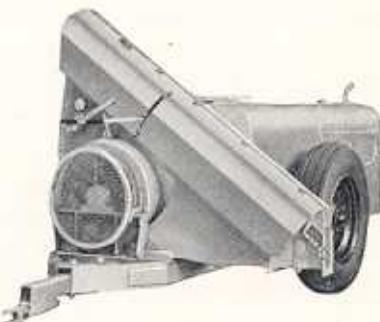
Concord is the leading grape in Iowa and should comprise 90 percent of com-

mercial plantings and 75 percent of any home planting. Fredonia, ripening about two weeks before Concord, is worthy of trial.

Beta is a small blue grape which is hardy even in northern Iowa. It is suitable for juice and jelly making.

Red and white varieties are not reliably hardy, even in southern Iowa.

—W. P. J.



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