

REVIEWS and ABSTRACTS



GRAPE GROWING IN FLORIDA

By R. D. Dickey and Others, 1947

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Several attempts to establish a commercial grape industry in Florida have failed. The following factors appear to be responsible for the failures: the very short average life of vineyards (10 to 15 years), susceptibility to fruit rots and other diseases which necessitates a costly spray program, difficulty of marketing the fruit profitably when produced in considerable volume, and high cost of trellising materials.

Varieties

Of the several hundred varieties of grapes grown in the United States, only a few have proven successful in Florida. European or *Vitis vinifera* varieties, together with crosses combining any high percentage of these grapes, are unsatisfactory and should not be planted. Certain varieties of the American grapes, derived from native species, have

proven adaptable. This bulletin discusses in detail the production of the varieties which are adapted to Florida conditions.

The selection of varieties is very important and may largely determine the success or failure of the vineyard. During the past 30 years more than 400 different varieties of grapes have been given extensive trials in Florida. Of these, Extra (Florida Beacon), Carman and Niagara stood out above all others in growth and production and therefore should make up a major part of all commercial plantings.

Detailed directions are included in this bulletin concerning the propagation, soil management and fertilization, training and pruning, disease and insect control, and harvesting of grapes in Florida.

—W. P. J.

