

ahead of July Elberta which ripened 21 days ahead of Elberta.

The Merrill Beauty, although highly colored, has not as much color as the Merrill Gem, being about half covered with a red blush. The fruit is completely freestone when soft ripe, but clings to the pit somewhat when firm ripe.

A relatively high sugar content is developed when the fruit is quite green so it can be picked when very green to ripen into a very fine peach. This quality will make it very valuable for eastern shipment out of California.

The trees of both the Merrill Gem and Merrill Beauty are among the largest of the trees in my young orchard.



BLUEBERRY VARIETIES FOR MASSACHUSETTS

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Rubel is still the most widely planted variety in Massachusetts. Its popularity is based on its heavy and consistent cropping, its freedom from insect and disease troubles, its resistance to winter injury, and its long fruiting season. Late ripening Rubel berries, even though they are small, often bring the best price of the season because they don't have to compete with other blueberries.

Pioneer is a popular variety in the Cape Cod section where it produces heavy crops of large, attractive, fine flavored fruit and is quite winter hardy. It hasn't performed so well in other sections of the state at higher elevations and in heavier soils. In the

latter areas Concord performs better.

Concord is a vigorous grower and a



Rubel, the most widely planted blueberry in Massachusetts.



Concord, a dependable blueberry on upland soils in Massachusetts.

heavy producer in spite of its susceptibility to the mummy berry disease. The berries are large, attractive, fine flavor-

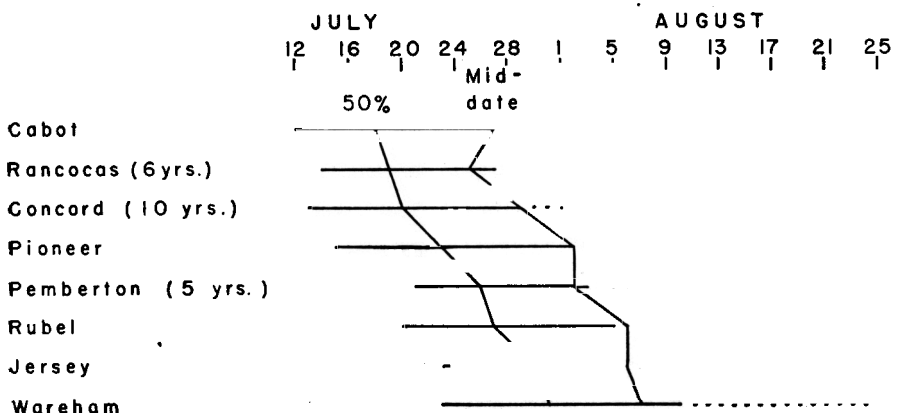
ed and hang to the bush well. Although Concord has been planted only to a limited extent, it appears to be gaining in popularity.

Jersey, although not heavily planted at present, is definitely gaining in favor. Its vigor, productiveness, freedom from insect and disease troubles, winter hardiness and the large size and attractiveness of its fruit, have increased its popularity with growers.

Wareham, because of its productivity, lateness and good flavor, was planted extensively for a number of years. However, the dark color of the fruit and the tendency to crack badly after rains, have caused this variety to lose favor. It is being planted only to a limited extent.

PICKING SEASON OF BLUEBERRY VARIETIES (1937-1948)

This chart shows the average picking season for a few of the blueberry varieties grown at the Massachusetts Experiment Station. Averages are for 11 years unless indicated otherwise.



The cross-line, marked 50%, indicates the date on which half of the crop of the respective varieties had been picked. The second cross-line, marked mid-date, indicates the middle of the picking season of each variety. The dotted part of each horizontal line shows when the last 15 percent of the crop was picked. This last 15 percent is very important because the late berries bring the highest price in Massachusetts.

Early varieties have not been planted extensively in Massachusetts because of competition from New Jersey. Of the early varieties, Cabot has been planted mostly commonly. Because of its many weaknesses, such as susceptibility to winter injury and the stunt disease, tendency to drop badly when ripe and crack badly after rains, and lack of flavor, it is considered of value only for its earliness. It is planted to a limited extent where early berries are desired for a roadside stand or local market. Weymouth and June have been too lacking in vigor and productiveness under Massachusetts conditions.

Rancocas never has been popular with Massachusetts growers. Although it produces a vigorous bush, it has not been a consistently heavy producer and the size of the berries decreases too

rapidly as the season progresses.

Atlantic, Burlington and Pemberton have been planted to a very limited extent on a trial basis. Atlantic appears to be quite vigorous and productive. The berries are large, attractive and have good flavor but drop badly when ripe. Burlington seems to be somewhat lacking in vigor and the berries are small, but it has the advantage of lateness. Pemberton is vigorous and productive. The berries have a good flavor and are large and attractive. It is gaining slightly in favor but because of its poor scar will probably not become a leading commercial variety.

The two recently introduced varieties, Berkeley and Coville, are under test but not enough is known about them to evaluate their usefulness under Massachusetts conditions.



TENNESSEE PROLIFIC RED RASPBERRY

By Brooks D. Drain, 1948

Tenn. Agr. Expt. Sta. Circ. 101, 4 p.

The Tennessee Prolific red raspberry was secured by crossing Lloyd George and Tennessee Seedling VVF 169 in 1935. It was isolated from the same progeny group as Tennessee Luscious.

Tennessee Prolific first fruited in 1937 and was at once selected as a promising seedling. One crop of fruit is produced annually under Tennessee conditions, followed by a few stray berries in the fall.

Tennessee Prolific ripens late, about the same season as Latham. The plants

are tall, upright, vigorous; hardy in Tennessee and productive. The fruit is firm and handles well. It makes an excellent frozen-pack and should be valuable for this purpose. In color it is a somewhat deeper red than Latham. The quality is good to excellent, both fresh and cooked. The plant produces suckers freely and has been very healthy. Anthracnose is troublesome, but no more so than with other standard varieties. One planting that was set in an old nursery plot went out with crown gall in about 7 years. Tennessee Prolific should be valuable for commercial plantings as well as in the home garden.

W. P. J.