

New Jersey Growers Rate Blueberry Varieties*

E. G. CHRIST

New Brunswick, New Jersey

A GROWERS' panel devoted about an hour and a half to discussing the old and new blueberry varieties at the annual New Jersey Blueberry Open House on January 13, 1955. The following is a brief summary of how the seven growers and Dr. G. M. Darrow, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, feel about the varieties.

Of the older varieties, Cabot, Concord, and Atlantic received not a single favorable comment, and were unanimously voted for discard. Burlington, Dixi, Stanley and Pemberton received favorable comment from only two growers. Rubel and June received favorable votes from four growers. Of the older varieties those on top were Weymouth, Rancocas and Jersey, each receiving six votes. Growers were not in agreement in their comments regarding varieties, which was expected.

The five new varieties, adapted to New Jersey, were then placed on the block and Berkeley and Coville received seven favorable votes. Earliblue, Blucrop and Herbert received two favorable votes and five growers could not pass judgment because they had not sufficient experience with these varieties. They agreed that these three varieties impressed them favorably, although they had fruited only a few plants. Ivanhoe, a sixth variety was not discussed by the panel. Growers are not favorably impressed by the performance of Ivanhoe in New Jersey.

Dr. G. M. Darrow agreed with the panel pretty much, and listed for discard Pioneer, Cabot, Scammell, Wareham and Weymouth. Weymouth may be superseded by Earliblue, but grow-

ers are not ready to commit themselves regarding this. He listed for limited use Rancocas, Concord, Stanley, June, Jersey, Dixi, and Rubel. Dr. Darrow suggested for special use Atlantic, Burlington, Pemberton, and Ivanhoe. He had many comments regarding why he placed the varieties in these groups.

New Jersey growers are pleased with the five new varieties at the present time. They like Weymouth because it is usually profitable, and they like Rancocas because it is productive and holds good size. Jersey is still hard to beat, but Herbert may be a replacement for Jersey. Burlington has drawbacks, but it is the best for storage. Blucrop appears to be quite drought resistant. Growers did mention that a favorable vote for any one variety did not necessarily mean they would plant it, but rather that they would not remove it immediately.

This was an excellent discussion of varieties and it would be quite interesting to have this same panel meet again five years from now to hear their comments. Perhaps by that time some of these superior varieties will be superseded.



The Monroe apple looks like it may be a good possibility for extending the season of Jonathan, which it resembles in appearance, flavor, and susceptibility to fire blight. It is bright in color, hangs on well, and does not tend to develop Jonathan Spot as readily as does Jonathan.—G. J. Downing, New Madison, Ohio.

*Prepared for publication June 1955.