

Plums

Many of the more popular varieties are well adapted to New Mexico conditions, and rarely fail to make a crop. Blue Damson, Climax and Stanley are all grown successfully in the state. Stanley, in particular, has borne crops with regularity when other stone fruits have been hard hit by frosts. Methley, an early bloomer,* has been injured by late frosts in several seasons.



Young Stanley plum tree at the New Mexico Agricultural Experiment Station's horticultural farm, located in the Mesilla Valley of southern New Mexico.

Apricots

These are the most difficult of stone fruits to grow in New Mexico, due to early blooming, and rarely bear a crop. Moorpark and Wilson Delicious are generally grown in the central part of the state, and Wilson Delicious in the southern irrigated valleys.

few plantings of sweet cherries which include the varieties Bing, Lambert, Napoleon (Royal Anne) and Governor Wood are also found in the state.

Cherries

Royal Duke, an attractive variety, is a steady bearer and rarely misses a year. Early Richmond, Montmorency and English Morello are sour cherry varieties that are grown in the state. A

*Green cut on page 25 shows Methley blooming Feb. 3, 1950, at Knoxville, Tenn.

Nectarines

Some nectarines appear to crop more regularly in New Mexico than either peaches or apricots. Flaming Gold, Sure Crop and Hunter are all popular with growers, and are fairly regular bearers.

The Callaway and Coastal Blueberries

(Press release from Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Georgia, January, 1950.)

The first varieties of the rabbiteye blueberry to be developed by a systematic breeding program are being released for general planting. These

varieties, CALLAWAY and COASTAL, resulted from a cross of two varieties, Myers and Black Giant, which were selected from the wild. They were developed as a result of cooperative breeding work conducted by the United States Department of Agricul-

ture and the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station.

The rabbiteye blueberry, *Vaccinium ashei*, is native to the areas along most of the streams of southeastern Alabama, northern Florida, and southern Georgia. Many field plantings have been made from plants taken from the wild, and the fruits produced by these plants are generally small and of poor quality. From these native plantings superior plants have been selected and named. Among the better named varieties are Black Giant and Hagood, which were selected in northwest Florida; Myers and Clara, which were selected in the Suwannee River area; and Walker and Satilla, which were selected along the Satilla River in southeastern Georgia. The Callaway and Coastal varieties have larger berries and smaller seeds than berries from the average wild plant. In 1949, samples of berries of Callaway, Coastal, Myers, and Black Giant were picked and counts made of the number required to fill a one-half pint cup. The results of this count are shown under "Cup Count" in the table be-

low, together with ratings on various fruit and plant characteristics.

The CALLAWAY, tested as 11-182, is a cross of Myers x Black Giant made in 1940 by the United States Department of Agriculture. The seeds were planted and the seedlings grown at Beltsville, Maryland, until the fall of 1942 when the plants were sent to Tifton, Georgia, and set on a light Plummer soil.

The berries of Callaway are larger than those of either Myers or Black Giant, and the blue color, due to a waxy bloom, is better than in Myers and far better than in Black Giant. This bloom adds to the appearance of the berries and retards shriveling due to loss of moisture. The scar in this variety is excellent. It is the hole made in the berry when it is pulled from the stem. It is important that the berry does not tear, and that the scar is small and dry so as to reduce decay in shipment. Callaway has a good balance between sugar and acid and has a mild aroma. The skin is thin and as a result cracking is some-

Comparison of the Principal Characteristics of Callaway, Coastal, Myers, and Black Giant Varieties

Variety	10=Best Rating				1=Poorest Rating			
	Cup Count	Color	Scar	Flavor	Type of Cluster	Disease Resistance	Firmness	Plant Vigor
Callaway	101	8	10	9	10	9	8	7
Coastal	91	6	10	7	10	6	7	9
Myers	165	6	8	7	9	4	8	8
Black Giant	137	1	10	5	10		5	10

times considerable in rainy weather following a drought. Clusters of this variety are loose enough to permit easy picking but compact enough to permit the plant to produce heavy crops. This variety has never shown fruit spot, which is serious on Black Giant; and very little mildew has been observed on field plants, compared to severe mildew on plants of the Myers variety. The thin skin and juicy flesh reduce the firmness of the berry; but it is sufficiently firm to ship to distant markets. Once established, the vigor of this variety is very satisfactory. In test plantings it has not grown well on rather dry sandy soil, but has been grown satisfactorily on soil well supplied with moisture.

Description of Callaway

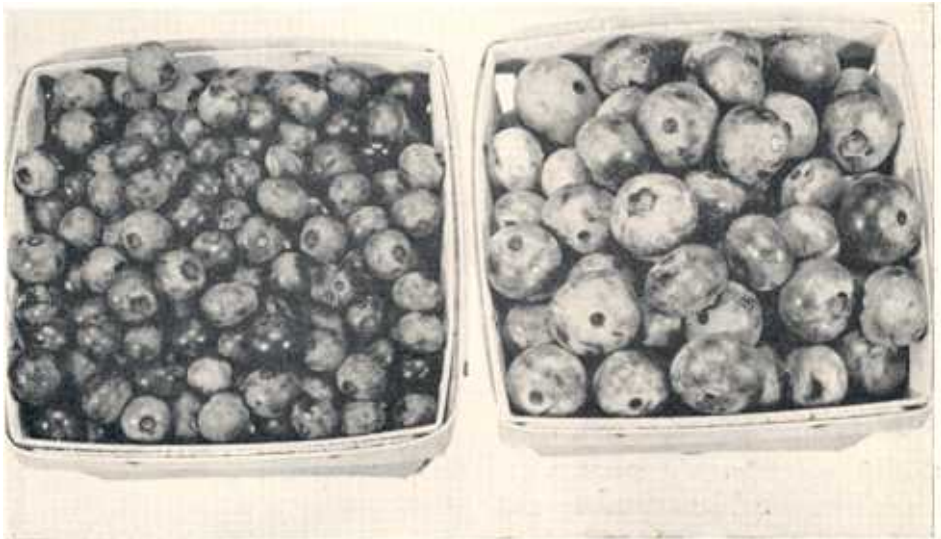
BUSH—vigorous, upright, open, and spreading. The young bark has a red tinge and the old bark is gray.

LEAVES—predominantly large, oval, and finely serrated; young leaves ovate, blue-green due to bloom, and old leaves dark green.

FRUIT—large, round, good blue, slightly soft, juicy, slight aroma, quality very good, good scar, calyx small, early mid-season. Most of the crop ripens in a relatively short time.

CLUSTER—long, medium loose, pedicels medium long, and do not adhere to berries.

COASTAL has been tested as 9-109. It was selected from the same lot of seedlings as Callaway and has the same parentage.



On this page and the next we show pictures of two new blueberry varieties previously released and described here in 1949. Above: left, the well-known Rubel; right, the new Berkeley (both high-bush varieties.) On page 12: left, Dixie; right, Coville.



Berries of Coastal are larger than those of any other variety of rabbiteye blueberry of equal quality. The color is not so good as that of Callaway and rubs a little more easily. Scar is good, being small and dry. Flavor is a little mild but is not so good as Callaway and is about equal to Myers. The fruit cluster of Coastal is very good but more compact than Callaway and better than Myers. Coastal is more susceptible to leaf spot than either Callaway, Black Giant, or Myers, but is resistant to fruit spot. This variety tends to become rather soft when slightly over-ripe. In plant vigor Coastal exceeds both Callaway and Myers and is about equal to Black Giant. In test plantings this variety has grown rapidly.

Description of Coastal

BUSH—very vigorous, upright, and spreading due to heavy crops. The bark on young twigs is greenish with a red tinge and on the old stems is grey.

LEAVES—predominantly large, oval, and finely serrated; young leaves ovate, blue-green, and old leaves light green.

FRUIT—very large, medium blue, slightly soft, juicy, quality good, seeds more conspicuous than in Callaway, calyx medium, scar small and dry, and season early.

CLUSTER—long, moderately tight, pedicels medium long, and do not adhere to berries.

Dissemination

Plants may be obtained from the Georgia Coastal Plain Experiment Station, Tifton, Georgia.