

## *New Small Fruits Developed at Geneva*

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For several years the breeding of autumn-fruiting or so-called ever-bearing red raspberries has received considerable attention at the Experiment Station at Geneva. Raspberries of this type produce two crops a year. The first, or summer crop, is borne in the usual manner on the canes which grew the preceding year. The second, or fall crop, is produced on the tips of the current season's canes.

**September**, resulting from a cross between Marcy and Ranere made in 1934, was introduced in 1947. The fall crop is from two to four weeks earlier than that of Indian summer, the only other fall-bearing variety extensively grown at the present time. The summer crop ripens about two days earlier than Indian Summer and June, both of which are among the first to ripen.

The berries of September are of medium size, firm, free from crumbling, bright medium red, and of fair quality for the summer crop. The quality of the fall crop is much better. The berries tend to cling to the bushes more strongly than is desirable, but this is not serious in the home garden. Commercial growers will need to supervise pickers until they have learned to pick only fully ripe berries. The plants are vigorous, hardy at Geneva, and bear

heavy crops. Reports from others indicate that September will grow satisfactorily farther south than most other red varieties.

### **An Amber-colored Raspberry**

**Amber** is an amber-colored, large, sweet, high quality variety of red raspberry type that was introduced for the home gardener. The plants are usually vigorous, being taller than any other variety in the Station test plot and bearing heavy crops. It is the latest raspberry to ripen, beginning about two days after Milton. A few canes winter-killed somewhat the past winter and during the wet weather in July some of the drupelets developed mold spots. Amber is a high quality novelty for the home gardener who wants something distinct, different, and good to eat.

Amber originated from a cross between Taylor, a Station seedling, and Cuthbert, an old variety famous for its quality.

### **New Blackberries Show Promise**

At the present there are very few commercial or home garden plantings of blackberries in New York. This is due in part to difficulty in getting plants of good varieties true to name and partly to so-called "sterility." Plants affected by this trouble bloom normally, but the

fruits fail to develop, or produce berries with only a few drupelets. Frequently the entire crop may be affected. Numerous inquiries received by the Station indicate that the trouble is widespread and that many have discontinued growing blackberries because of it.

The blackberry breeding project at Geneva has as its objective the development of varieties suitable for market and the home garden. The first varieties to result from this work, Hedrick and Bailey, were introduced in the fall of 1950. Hedrick is a cross between Eldorado and Brewer made in 1929, but the parentage of Bailey is not known owing to a lost label.

The plants of both are vigorous and productive and have withstood Geneva winters satisfactorily. Some orange rust has been found in the stocks of each variety but prompt removal prevented it from spreading. Growers should examine their plants each year in late spring and destroy any that have become infected.

The berries of both Hedrick and Bailey are large, moderately firm, and without noticeable cores. Hedrick is tart, but pleasantly flavored. Bailey is somewhat larger and sweeter. In 1951, Hedrick was ready to pick July 23 and Bailey two days later. Usually these varieties have been fairly free from the "sterility" trouble, although in one season they were seriously affected. Both

varieties are worthy of trial for market and home use.

### Three New Strawberries

The Station at Geneva has introduced a number of strawberries of which Catskill has become important and widely grown. Culver and Clermont have also been grown to a lesser extent. In 1950, three new sorts—Empire, Erie and Essex—were introduced. Empire was produced by crossing Dresden and Sparkle in 1940. Sparkle and Howard (Premier) crossed the same year gave rise to Erie, while Essex originated in 1926 from a cross between Howard (Premier) and Deutsch Evern, an early-ripening German variety. Empire is perhaps the handsomest variety in the Station plantings, the berries being large and a light glossy red color and very smooth in appearance. It ripens four to six days after Howard. The light skin and flesh color make the variety unsuitable for freezing or preserving, but its very attractive appearance make it well worthy of trial as a berry for the fresh fruit trade. The plants are vigorous, make plenty of runners, and bear well.

Erie is a late variety, ripening from five to eight days after Howard, or with Sparkle. The berries are large and maintain their size well throughout the season. They are medium red in color, bright and attractive with a tougher skin than Howard. The flesh is red and the

quality is about the same as that of Howard. Erie produces heavy crops and makes enough runners for a good fruiting row. It is primarily a market variety.

Essex is for the home gardener. It ripens about five days before Howard and bears moderate crops of medium sized, rather soft, bright red attractive berries of excellent quality. Its small size and tender skin render it unsuitable for the general market.

Growers should test these new varieties in a small way until their usefulness has been determined. Usually two or three crops should be observed before final judgment is passed upon a new variety.

The new bramble varieties were introduced by the New York Fruit Testing Cooperative Association at Geneva. September raspberry and Hedrick blackberry are also available from several commercial nurseries. Amber and Bailey are in limited supply and plants will be scarce for several years.

The strawberries are available from a few growers who cooperated with the Station in testing them. The names of suppliers of the new strawberries and brambles may be had from the Division of Pomology of the Experiment Station at Geneva.—Farm Research, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.



## *Peach, Pear and Plum Variety Trends in Michigan*

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Elberta is Michigan's leading peach variety. Currently 45 percent of Michigan's bearing peach trees are of that variety. During the past seven years there has been practically no change in the percent of all bearing peach trees reported to be Elberta. Halehaven is the second most important variety and has been steadily increasing in im-

portance. Many growers and other informed trade people feel that possibly the rate of increase of Halehaven will gradually lessen in the next ten years. If this should happen it could mean that the Halehaven variety would stabilize itself at about one-third of Michigan's bearing peach trees. Approximately three-fourths of the State's bear-