Two New Varieties Just a Beginning in Blackberry Breeding at Geneva, N. Y.

Introduction of the Hedrick and Bailey blackberries by fruit breeders at the Geneva Experiment Station is just the beginning of better varieties for the blackberry grower.

Many stocks of older varieties now in the trade are not true to name and it is difficult for growers to procure plants of good varieties of blackberries.

Partial and complete sterility of the flowers resulting in imperfect berries is common. In fact, blackberry growing in New York has declined nearly to the vanishing point and if commercial production is to be re-established in the State, suitable new varieties must be developed.

The Station's breeding program has as its chief objectives reliability of production, freedom from imperfect berries, sorts that bear fruit out in the open for ease of picking, and other plant and fruit characters necessary for a good variety.

Our present-day blackberry varieties are mostly selections from the wild and they often do not perform well under cultivation.

The breeding work at Geneva is based on Eldorado, a variety which is highly resistant to orange rust and relatively free from the trouble causing imperfect berries. Twenty-two varieties and selections have been used as parents in forty different combinations to produce 3,588 seedlings. From these 126 selections have been made to date and 75 of these have now fruited sufficiently to indicate the value of certain varieties and combination as parents.—Progress Report, N. Y. State Agr. Exp. Sta., Geneva, N. Y.

A Dutch Raspberry Proving Valuable in Breeding

A Dutch raspberry known as **St. Walfried** has proved itself to be outstanding in producing promising seedlings in the raspberry breeding program at the Geneva Experiment Station.

St. Walfried is closely related to Lloyd George, an English variety, which has also given excellent results at Geneva. Both of these varieties belong to the European species of raspberry, **Rubus idaeus,** and thus are not closely related genetically to our American raspberries.

Crosses between representatives of this European species and native raspberries produce seedlings with markedly greater hybrid vigor than found in crosses between varieties