

route was Saskatchewan and Alberta. His next tour would be to collect the seed resulting from his crosses.

He was a trail blazer, a builder of foundations. Much of his work was not finished, but will provide generations to come with stepping stones to a final finished product. His aim was beauti-

ful fruitful homes, in an area once thought to be a desert.

To a Great Plains resident, Dr. Hansen is a legendary figure. He was the first citizen of the United States to be awarded the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal, by our Canadian friends. His is a permanent honored place, in the history of American horticulture.



Variety Notes from the South Shore of Lake Erie

H. K. FLEMING*

North East, Pennsylvania

The Pennsylvania grape belt, a strip of land five miles in width bordering Lake Erie, is one of the nation's small but concentrated areas of fruit production. Here the Concord grape reigns supreme; but growers produce considerable quantities of other fruits in diversified operations.

A large part of the grapes, red tart cherries, red currants, prunes and tomatoes are delivered to processing plants, while most of the peaches, apples, sweet cherries, strawberries and raspberries find a home through roadside markets, "pick-your-own" sales, or trucking to nearby markets.

Fruit variety testing has been a continuing project at the Erie County Field Research Laboratory of the Pennsylvania Agricultural Experiment Station since an experimental farm was purchased near North East some ten years ago. This report presents observations on varietal trials over this period and comments on the adaptation of some of the newer sorts to the climate of this lake shore area.

Grape. As long as 95 percent of the grape tonnage is processed into unfermented juice, jelly and similar products, Concord should remain king of

grape varieties. The few Fredonia and Niagara vines that remain are gradually being replaced with Concord. Tentative attempts are being made by several growers to bring grapes back to the fresh market, but no planting of the better dessert varieties for this purpose is under way.

Red tart cherry. Montmorency dominates the planting, and a small acreage of English Morello is being maintained.

Peach. The number of peach trees of all ages in Erie County has dropped about 50 percent in the last decade. The falling off in demand for locally grown fruit has been attributed to change in habits of housewives, who have largely given up home canning.

Rochester and Late Elberta, once leading varieties, are now found only in the older orchards. Golden Jubilee is still available in quantity, but is not being replanted. Halehaven, and Redhaven have replaced these older varieties in newly set orchards. Consumer preference is forcing growers to look for varieties which have an attractive red blush covering the entire surface of the peach.

*Professor of Pomology, Pennsylvania State University.

Fairhaven is a variety with beauty and quality which has been productive in the station orchard, but it is short on red coloring. Several varieties introduced from the New Jersey Experiment Station have good fruit characteristics, particularly Jerseyland, Sunhigh and Triogem, but all are very susceptible to bacterial leaf spot. Dixi-red is an early cling which has produced well. Southland has color and quality, but has been a rather shy bearer here. Redskin, with heavy thinning, offers color and productivity in Elberta season. Several of the newer varieties which have not yet fruited in the station orchard may find a place in future plantings.

Sweet cherry. Napoleon and Windsor are the leading varieties. Growers catering to the "pick-your-own" trade are interested in a large-fruited black biggareau type which is a more reliable cropper than Schmidt.

Plum. Stanley has produced consistently good crops, but it has not replaced Italian Prune as the leading plum.

Apple. McIntosh, Cortland, Delicious, Rome and their sports make up a large part of the apple orchards in the area, with very little new planting under way.

Red Currant. Wilder has been the most important red currant variety for many years. In the station planting it has been superior to Red Lake and Stephens-9 in productivity and longevity, although berry size is smaller. A few bushes of Minnesota-52 have produced larger berries and as many pounds of fruit per bush as Wilder over a seven year period.

Viking, a variety which is immune to white pine blister rust, is also very hardy and very resistant to leaf spot. However, its small clusters of berries mature late and are difficult to pick.

Its commercial possibilities are limited but it should be a valuable parent in any breeding program.

Production of red currants is on the decline in this area due to the expensive harvest operation and labor difficulties at harvest. This year a mechanical picker was given its first field trial. If it is found practicable, this machine could revive interest in new plantings of this fruit.

Strawberry. Catskill and Robinson have replaced Premier as the leading local market varieties. Some other older sorts are still being planted and some newer ones are being tested in a small way.

Crops were taken from a replicated, non-irrigated variety trial on the station farm in 1956 and 1957. Frost damage in both years was more severe in some varieties than in others, particularly Catskill and Robinson which had been leaders in previous trials. A dry June further reduced the 1956 crop, but rainfall was adequate in 1957. All planting stock was virus free. Yields of some of the named varieties are given in Table 1.

Earlidawn, recently named and introduced by the U. S. D. A., was out-

TABLE 1. Strawberry yields in variety trial at North East, Pa., 1956 and 1957, calculated in quarts per acre.

Variety.	1956	1957	Two-year total
Earlidawn	0	8,930	15,900
Dixieland	1	6,534	11,035
Armored	9	5,227	9,946
Pocahontas	8	6,026	9,874
Midland	6	5,227	9,873
Sparkle	6	6,534	9,220
Redglow	5	5,300	9,075
Vermillion	8	5,155	9,003
Catskill	8	4,283	8,718
Bellmar	3	6,171	8,494
Surecrop	9	5,227	7,986
Fairfax	0	3,848	7,478
Redstar	5	3,775	7,260
Robinson	1	3,340	6,171

standing in this trial. Its first picking was four days before other early varieties tested. Quality, size and shape of berries was good. Plants were vigorous, producing fewer runners than many other varieties. Earlidawn is not resistant to red stele.



Double Delight, Earligold, and June Gold Peaches

As the name implies, **Double Delight** is a dual-purpose variety, producing large, pale pink, double petals (14-18 per flower), thus classifying it as a fine ornamental, yet at the same time yielding highly acceptable table fruit. It is a large, sweet, firm, freestone with yellow flesh. A moderate red blush covers the skin. It matures in early midseason, before Saturn, and its chilling requirement is somewhat higher than that variety.

Earligold is the earliest ripening yellow-fleshed peach yet introduced by Armstrong Nurseries of Ontario, California, which is also introducing **Double Delight** and **June Gold** this year. **Earligold** is a freestone when fully ripe, and its skin color is good if not picked too early. It yields good crops for its extremely early season. The chilling requirement is low, being equal to or somewhat less than for **Springtime**.

June Gold matures seven to ten days before **Redhaven**. It is a J. H. Hale type, being suitable for shipping. The chilling requirement is low, being only slightly higher than for **Springtime**.

Patents have been applied for by Armstrong's for all three of these new varieties. Mr. Herbert C. Swim, formerly with this nursery, is the originator of them.—*R. M. Brooks*

Garnet Peach

The Van Well Nursery of Wenatchee has recently released a new peach named **Garnet**. This yellow-fleshed freestone has a very fine flavor with qualities similar to those of **Sunhigh** but has the additional features of earlier ripening and more red skin color. The bright garnet color covers most of the surface at harvest time, which is just ahead of **Triogem** with the first picking, coming along with the last picking of **Redhaven**. The dessert qualities are excellent and it can be shipped, canned and frozen well. Mrs. Ruth D. Reeves of East Wenatchee, wife of the well-known USDA Plant Pathologist Mr. E. L. (Bud) Reeves, is the originator.—*R. M. Brooks*



Ralph Albert Van Meter

Dr. Ralph Albert Van Meter, 64, President of the University of Massachusetts from 1948 to 1954, died suddenly at his home in Harwich, Mass., on Saturday morning, July 26.

Dr. Van Meter was born in Columbus Grove, Ohio, October 4, 1893. He received his bachelor of science degree from Ohio State University in 1917, the M.S. from the University of Massachusetts in 1930, Ph.D. from Cornell in 1935 and the honorary LL.D., Amherst College, 1949, and the University of Massachusetts, 1954.

He has been Vice President of the Massachusetts Forest and Park Association, President of the Massachusetts Fruit Growers' Association, and an active member of the American Pomological Society and American Society for Horticultural Science. In 1957 Dr. Van Meter was awarded a Wilder Medal of the American Pomological Society for his service to horticulture. His death is a great loss to the world of science and education.