

Small-fruit Varieties of Importance in New Jersey

ERNEST G. CHRIST, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Some of the older grape and berry varieties still occupy much of the acreage of these fruits in New Jersey. Newer introductions are being planted and to a greater extent in some instances, especially in the case of the blueberry. The discussion that follows deals with the small fruit varieties of importance in this state.

GRAPES

The grape varieties of greatest importance include Fredonia, Concord, and Sheridan for table use and wine. Those varieties grown mainly for wine include Ives, Missouri Riesling, Clevener, Ontario, Portland, Niagara, Delaware, and Norton. Catawba is also found in some winery vineyards and, of course, in home plantings. Brighton is used in home plantings.

Two newer varieties from the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, namely Schuyler and Steuben, appear to be quite promising. Schuyler ripens ahead of Concord, its quality is excellent and the plant is vigorous in the Experiment Station planting. It is being planted mainly on a trial basis by growers who operate roadside stands. Steuben appears to be something we need to replace Sheridan. The latter variety does not ripen fully in many vineyards because it is so late; the plant is neither vigorous nor productive, and it does not hold its foliage sufficiently long to fully ripen the fruit. Steuben ripens ahead of Sheridan and is being planted as a table grape. Much more Steuben is being planted as compared to Schuyler. This past winter there was some winter killing at New Brunswick on three Steuben plants, but they are vigor-

ous and there are more than sufficient canes for a good crop in 1953.

A third New York introduction, Interlaken Seedless, has not proved to be winter hardy in New Jersey. At New Brunswick, the plants have been killed back and have not given a crop. They were planted with Schuyler and Steuben where these two varieties have yielded two good crops. Interlaken Seedless has looked fairly good for several years, in one county 100 miles south of New Brunswick, but the plants killed back severely this past winter and spring.

Of the most recent five varieties introduced by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, we have observed only one at New Brunswick. Romulus, the seedless white variety, looks very promising. The plants were vigorous and produced large clusters of excellent fruit for two seasons.

Several U. S. D. A. selections look promising in trial plantings. U. S. D. A. No. 709-1 and 712-1, two blue-black varieties, may have a place as wine grapes. U. S. D. A. No. 4017-22 is an attractive blue purple that shows promise as a table grape.

We hope and believe that some of the new European-American hybrids will be satisfactory in New Jersey for both wine and table use.

BLUEBERRIES

The most widely planted blueberry variety is Jersey and it is still increasing in popularity. Burlington and Weymouth plantings are also increasing in numbers but the acreage of these two varieties is much less than that for Jersey. Many of the older varieties are declining in importance. These include Cabot, Concord,

Stanley, Pioneer, Rancocas, Rubel, and June. Pemberton is somewhat experimental as far as the growers are concerned, and is being planted on that basis. Atlantic and Dixi are holding about steady. There is considerable interest in the newer varieties introduced by the United States Department of Agriculture and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station. Coville and Berkeley are being planted to the extent that plants were available. There is tremendous interest in the latest introductions—Herbert, Earliblue, and Bluecrop from New Jersey, and Ivanhoe from the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station. As Dr. G. M. Darrow states, we now have in New Jersey a succession of large-fruited varieties of improved quality, beginning with Earliblue and ending with Coville, 30 days later.

STRAWBERRIES

Sparkle is the most widely planted variety and appears to be on the increase or at least holding steady. It probably occupies half the strawberry acreage. Red stele in this and other so-called "resistant" varieties may change this situation somewhat in the next few years. Redcrop is the second most important variety and is increasing. Both Sparkle and Redcrop are excellent for freezing. Lupton still occupies quite an acreage in the southern most counties. Other varieties being grown, but to a much less extent than the three mentioned, include Temple, Robinson, Catskill, Redwing, Premier, and Joe. One variety that looked exceptionally good and produced heavy crops during a few years previous to 1948 is Midland. We need an early, large-fruited berry like Midland, but this variety has become infected with the Western Yellows virus and no longer produces a vigorous bed of plants. Most plants fail to produce even a single runner, so it is not planted at all commercially.

RASPBERRIES

The raspberry varieties grown include Latham, generally over the state, with some Sunrise in central and southern counties, and Taylor and Newburgh in northern counties. This industry is declining in New Jersey. One area where raspberries and other brambles were heavily planted is now rapidly becoming an important blueberry section.

The Music of a Tree

Once, walking home, I passed beneath a Tree,
It filled the air like dark stone statuary,
It was so quiet and still,
Its thick green leaves a hill
Of strange and faint earth-branching melody:

Over a wall it hung its leaf-starred wood,
And as I lonely there beneath it stood,
In that sky-hollow street
Where rang no human feet,
Sweet music flowed and filled me with its flood;

And all my weariness then fell away,
The houses were more lovely than by day;
The moon and that old Tree
Sang there, and secretly,
With throbbing heart, tip-toe I stole away.

—W. J. TURNI

American Pomological Society Meeting

The American Pomological Society executive board is pleased to announce that it has accepted the invitation of the Indiana Horticultural Society to hold a joint meeting with them on January 13, 14, and 15, 1954, at the Murat Temple, Indianapolis, Indiana.