

Purple Autumn, A New Raspberry Variety

by

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The Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station is releasing in August, 1953, a purple raspberry variety named Purple Autumn. Its parentage is Bristol x Indian Summer, a cross made by A. S. Colby in 1938, at Urbana, Illinois. It was selected in 1940 and has been tested as Illinois 38-417 on the University of Illinois horticultural farm and at other locations in the state, and is under test at experiment stations throughout the United States. As far as can be determined, this is the first purple "everbearing" raspberry ever to be named.

Under Illinois conditions the plants of Purple Autumn are "ever-bearing," medium to high in productivity, and the summer crop is larger than the autumn

crop. The plants are vigorous and hardy. The canes are very stocky and glaucous, having less bloom than Sodus but more than Marion. Prickles are numerous and stiff, and the prickles and prickle bases are large and red in color. The leaves are very large and relatively smooth, but with a slight tendency for the surface to be undulate. The plants produce few suckers and are propagated by tip-layers with difficulty because of their autumn-fruiting habit. However, they are very easily propagated by leaf-bud cuttings. No virus diseases have been found in test plantings to date.

In Illinois, Purple Autumn begins to mature its summer crop in early mid-season, and has a long harvesting period. Its season has been earlier than Sodus and Marion but later than September and Indian Summer. The autumn crop has matured between September and Indian Summer. The fruit of Purple Autumn have been the largest of all raspberries tested in recent years at the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station. The fruit is large to very large, conic in shape, medium purple in color, attractive, firm, free from crumbling, tart, high in flavor, and is easily picked, separating readily from the receptacle.

Purple Autumn is the first variety to be named as a result of the raspberry breeding program at the University of Illinois.

The University of Illinois has no plants for sale. Only a limited number will be available in the fall of 1953 from cooperating nurserymen.



A fruiting cane of the new Purple Autumn Raspberry.