Boyne Raspberry

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Morden, Manitoba

Boyne is the name selected for a new red raspberry cultivar originated at the Research Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture, Morden, Manitoba.

Parentage and History

Boyne is the product of a cross of Chief x Indian Summer made at Morden in 1947. It was first selected in 1949, and planted into a test block in 1950. During the first test period this selection showed sufficient promise so that in 1953 it was given the Morden introduction number M–534, and plants were distributed to cooperative growers for extended trial.

Plant Characteristics

The plant is moderately vigorous, sturdy, productive, hardy, healthy, and produces an abundance of canes. Canes are medium tall, measuring 55 to 60 inches in height, are erect in habit, stocky in growth, and thick in diameter (10–11 mm). The sturdy upright canes carry an extensive lateral branching system which provides a large fruiting area. Mature canes are reddish in color, often tinged with green. The young canes carry a moderate number of prickles of medium length, slender and rather weak, purple in color on the new growth but reddish on mature growth. On the older canes the prickles are brittle and not very noticeable or objectionable.

The foliage is medium to dark green, moderately glossy, with rugose, thick leaves that are able to withstand whipping from strong winds without undue tattering. There is an abundance of foliage, giving the appearance of sturdy substantial plant much like Chief. It appears fairly drought tolerant, and generally free of disease. To date it has shown equal or greater ability to survive low temperatures on the Canadian prairies than has either Chief or Latham.

Plants of Boyne have been productive, heavy croppers. High yields have been one of its strong features. Calculated yields per acre on the basis of production from test plot rows, have ranged from 3,500 pounds per acre to 8,000 pounds depending on seasonal conditions. Boyne has exceeded Chief in yield by one-quarter to one-half, and out-produced Latham.

Fruit Characteristics

The fruit is medium-sized, with 10 average berries weighing approximately 25 grams. Under Morden conditions berry size is equal to those of Latham (10 berries weigh 24 to 25 grams), and somewhat larger than Chief (10 berries at 20 to 22 grams). Fruit color is dark red, tending to become somewhat purplish red when over-ripe, medium glossy, and fairly attractive in appearance. Over-ripe berries have a tendency to drop, and necessitates more frequent harvesting. The druplets are moderate in number, medium to small in size, and cohere firmly, so that berries do not crumble. The fruit maintains its shape well in handling.

The berries are tender and juicy. Flavor is aromatic, sprightly and medi-

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um acid, probably a little strong for best dessert quality. It is rated superior to Latham in flavor, but not as sweet as Chief. Refractometer readings for Boyne gave 10.0 percent soluble solids, Chief—10.6 percent, and Latham—9.2 percent. With a sweetness nearly equal to Chief, it is a pleasant berry to eat out of hand or as dessert, and is rated good to very good for this purpose.

One of the strong attributes of Boyne has been excellent processing quality. As an all-around berry for freezing and canning, the Station Processing Laboratory has rated it equal or better than Madawaska in appearance, texture and flavor, although different in flavor. As a general purpose berry it is considered very good to excellent.

Boyne is especially adapted for home garden use and for local markets and processing outlets. Whether the berry has sufficient firmness for distant shipping or successive handling has not been fully determined. In cooperative tests, it has proved to be especially adapted to southern Manitoba conditions and is being introduced primarily for this area. Early tests indicate, however, that it may have wider adaptation.

Early June, A New Blackberry for the South

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Early June, an improved early blackberry adapted to southern conditions, has been released by the Georgia Experiment Station. A cross between the unnamed selections N.C. No. 36 and U.S.D.A. No. 266, it ripens its fruit during the first two weeks of June at Experiment, Georgia.

The fruit is borne in large clusters on long fruiting branches, and is therefore easy to pick. The jet-black berries are large, round, medium-firm and excellent in flavor. They are high in soluble solids and are acid enough to make good pies, jam and jelly.

The plants of Early June are vigorous, trailing and semi-thornless. They appear to be partially resistant to anthracnose and leaf spot and have not required spraying for these diseases in any test plantings.

Early June has been tested successfully in Alabama, and Mississippi as well as in Georgia. However this new variety is tender to cold and is therefore being recommended only for the southern half of the blackberry belt.

The Early June blackberry is recommended highly for home use because of its early maturity and its excellent fruit quality.

Figure 1. **Fruit of Early June, a jet black blackberry of excellent flavor.**

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