Blueberry Varieties to Plant or Discard in Northeastern United States

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A panel discussion on blueberry varieties was conducted by the authors at the Small Fruit Workers' Conference, July 6, 1960. After the panel members had presented their comments on the favorable and unfavorable characteristics of the newer varieties, the desirability of discarding many of the older varieties was discussed. Comments were solicited from the floor. Following all the discussion, conclusions were presented by the panel and agreed upon by the general group as follows:

"Big Seven" varieties recommended, listed in sequence of ripening, are as follows:

Earliblue, large, sweet, hardy; not productive enough and does not stool enough for general use in Michigan.

Collins, large, sweet, hardy; new; like Earliblue, but 5 days later, and more promising in Michigan.

Blueray, large high-flavored, vigorous, very hardy, sweet when blue; clusters may be too tight for mechanical harvesting.

Bluecrop, large, good, tart flavor, hardy, dependable cropper; tart in North for about 10 days after turning blue.

Berkeley, large, lightest blue, sweet when blue; less hardy than Bluecrop and Blueray; some fruit drop.

Herbert, largest, highest flavor, very hardy, dark; tart in North for 10 days after turning blue; skin somewhat tender for distant shipment; dwarf grower in farthest North.

Coville, large, very good, tart flavor 10 days after turning blue; one week later than Jersey in Michigan.

The following varieties were recommended for special purposes:

Jersey is dependable in Michigan; sweet when blue; ripens over long period; but is less dependable in New Jersey and New England. Herbert and Coville are superior in flavor.

Pemberton has a place in the home garden and for "pick-your-own" fields; is very vigorous and productive; but the scar is too wet for general market.

Concord is still liked in New Hampshire, and is hardy in southern part of New England.

Varieties that should not be propagated and planted since larger new ones are superior are as follows:

Pioneer. Bluecrop much larger, bluer; better scar, less disease.

Cabot. Earliblue much larger, better flavored, more vigorous.

Rancocas. Blueray far larger, better flavored, hardier.

Stanley. Blueray much larger, more acceptable flavor, more vigorous.

June. Collins more vigorous, larger berry.

Scammell. Bluecrop larger, better cluster, hardier, and more drought-resistant.

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Wareham. Herbert much larger and hardier, even better flavor.
Weymouth. Earliblue lighter blue, far better flavor, more vigorous.
Dixi. Coville holds size better and cracks far less.
Atlanta. Coville higher in flavor, larger, more vigorous.
Burlington. Coville much larger and better flavor.
Rubel. Coville and Jersey larger, Coville better flavor.
Ivanhoe. Blueray larger, far hardier.

Origin of New York E-6 Apple

In my article entitled "Apple Varieties of Outstanding Flavor", in the September 1960 issue of Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest, the variety New York E–6 is mentioned. This is one of the three varieties chosen for late winter. It is a fruit selection which has been described by Leo Klein, who is in charge of the apple breeding program at the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. It seems to me of interest to add that New York E–6 was originally selected even before it had fruited—in fact, when the seedling was only a few weeks old—because of its triploid genetic make-up. This was done by Dr. John Einset, of the same Station, in connection with a cytological study he was making of the progeny of diploid parents. This fascinating example of modern genetics can best be described in Mr. Klein's own words, which are as follows:

"Dr. Einset was trying to determine the incidence of triploids resulting from diploid parents and, as I recall, he discovered three or four triploids in the Red Spy × Golden Delicious progeny. Of these three or four, two have been selected as having sufficient merit to warrant further testing. These are E–6 and E–36, the latter an early Spy type, maturing about with McIntosh. Triploids developed in this way are more likely to be worthwhile seedlings than their diploid sibs for the simple reason that the complete chromosomal complement of the female parent (Red Spy) is transmitted intact, without any resegregation, whereas triploids developed from the tetraploid-diploid crosses are much more variable because resegregation has occurred."—*R. A. Nitchke, Birmingham, Michigan.*

New Apricots in Michigan

Two new apricot selections and one seedling are described in the recently published Michigan Agr. Exp. Station Special Bulletin No. 434, by Stanley Johnston, of the South Haven Exp. Station. These three new apricots are now being tested extensively in orchards throughout Michigan.

South Haven-6 is a Michigan selection with a vigorous, productive tree, and medium-sized, firm, golden yellow fruit of sprightly flavor, which do not drop when ripe. It ripens about July 23 at South Haven.

Curtis is a seedling that was originally found in the garden of the late F. J. Curtis, Charlotte, Michigan. It ripens four days after South Haven-6. Tree is upright and open. Fruit is of medium size, round, of medium-firmness, with a rich gold color and bright red blush, and excellent flavor. It drops moderately when ripe.

South Haven-7 is another Michigan selection, and ripens about August 1. Tree is large, vigorous and productive. Fruit is medium large, gold with a faint red blush, firm and of excellent flavor.