

Three New Cranberry Varieties

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Recently the United States Department of Agriculture and the Massachusetts Agr. Exp. Station released three new cranberry varieties. The seedlings were from crosses made in 1929 and 1930 by H. F. Bain and H. F. Bergman. In 1939, there were forty selected for further testing. In 1950, three of these were named Beckwith, Stevens and Wilcox. None of these varieties came up to the hopes of Massachusetts growers, therefore further seedling evaluation has been done by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in collaboration with the Massachusetts Cranberry Exp. Station. From these tests three new varieties have been released, primarily for Massachusetts, but two have shown some promise in other parts of North America.

A midseason variety, Bergman, is named for a retired U.S.D.A. worker, one of the two men who made the original crosses. It is from a cross of Early Black $\times$ Searles. Vines are excellent for harvest with uprights of medium length, holding berries up from the bottom. Runners are few. Plants are resistant to feeding by the leafhopper which transmits the virus disease false blossom. Fruit rot less than Early Black or Howes. Berry size is medium (cup count 65-80). Color is red. Berries are short, pear shaped. Good to excellent keeper; storage shrinkage small. Yield is greater than Early Black or Howes. The variety has done well in British Columbia, and it therefore may be expected to do well in some other locations.

The earliest of the new varieties is Franklin, named for the former head of the Cranberry Experiment Station, Massachusetts Agr. Exp. Station, East Wareham, Mass. It is from a cross of Early Black $\times$ Howes. Vines are excellent for harvest, with uprights of medium length, runners few and short. Plants are resistant to feeding by the leafhopper which transmits the virus false blossom. Harvest season is early, berry size medium (cup count 57-90), color red to very dark red. Berries are nearly round, good to excellent keepers. It yields more than Early Black or Howes. Probably only suited to the East Coast.

The Pilgrim, from a cross of Prolific $\times$ McFarlin, ripens late, has heavy vines, particularly on peat bottom, medium number of runners, uprights medium to long. It is resistant to feeding by the leafhopper that spreads the false blossom virus. Equal to Early Black and Howes in susceptibility to fruit rot. Berries are large (cup count 43-66), long, oval, purplish red with a yellow undercolor and a bloom. It is a good keeper, and yields more than Early Black or Howes. Pilgrim has fruited in Wisconsin and British Columbia. It has done very well in Wisconsin and has been satisfactory in British Columbia.

