

## Growing New Grapes in New York

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Our first planting of new varieties of grapes was made in 1930. It consisted of 500 vines of Portland, Ontario, Fredonia, and Sheridan. Since then we have tested most of the new varieties originated at the New York State Experiment Station as soon as they have been named.

All plantings have been made on better than average grape soils for this region. Cultivation and general care has been the same as for our established commercial vineyards. All vines have received an application of either nitrate of soda or ammonium nitrate at the proper time each spring.

Our planting site in the Finger Lake Grape Region in New York is one of the best in the area. Our growing season is long and usually free from early spring

and fall frosts. Killing frosts seldom occur before late October.

### Basis of Evaluation of Varieties

For a grape to be profitable as a commercial variety, certain characteristics are very essential. Varieties lacking these qualities should not receive consideration as commercial sorts. The vine should be at least moderately vigorous, productive, bear good crops annually and be hardy. The fruit must be of good quality and firm enough to stand handling without excessive injury.

In table 1, under "Varieties for Limited Commercial Planting", are several grapes that show great promise and may well become valuable commercial sorts. They need to be given further tests. Buffalo is one of the best blue grapes we have ever grown and Dunkirk is a fine

Sheridan, a fine late blue grape which requires a long growing season.



red grape that has never received proper recognition.

The varieties listed for local use have one or more serious weaknesses but may be of high quality and might be planted in a limited way to satisfy special local demands. Yates, Athens and Kendaia show promise but have not been grown long enough to get a definite evaluation of their merits.

I would like to emphasize that all the data and information in this article are for our local growing conditions in the Finger Lakes Region of New York. Some varieties that do not measure up to standards here may be of value in other areas.



Golden Muscat, a promising white grape.

TABLE 1. EVALUATION OF SOME OF THE NEWER GRAPE VARIETIES WHEN GROWN IN WESTERN NEW YORK

Variety	Approximate Ripening Date	Fruit Firmness	Hardiness	Fruit Size	Fruit Quality	Productiveness	Color	Remarks
1. MOST IMPORTANT COMMERCIAL VARIETIES								
Fredonia	Aug. 30	1	2	1	3	2	Blue	Subject to mildew
Seibel No. 1000	Sept. 20	1	1	2	2	1	Blue	Very promising
Sheridan	Oct. 5	1	2	1	2	1	Blue	Keeps well until Jan. 1
2. VARIETIES FOR LIMITED COMMERCIAL PLANTING								
Portland	Aug. 23	4	1	1	2	1	White	Rather poor grower
Ontario	Aug. 23	3	2	2	2	2	White	Likes clay soils
Van Buren	Aug. 25	4	1	2	2	1	Blue	Best early blue
Buffalo	Sept. 15	1	2	1	1	1	Blue	Promising in same area
Dunkirk	Sept. 15	1	2	1	1	1	Red	Best new red
Westfield	Sept. 10	1	2	3	1	1	Blue	Purely juice sort
Golden Muscat	Oct. 1	2	1	2	2	2	White	Very promising
3. VARIETIES FOR LOCAL USE								
Seneca	Aug. 25	4	2	1	3	White	Best quality white	
Athens	Sept. 3	2	3	2	3	Blue	Needs further testing	
Kendaia	Sept. 5	2	2	3	2	Blue	Needs further testing	
Eden	Sept. 10	4	3	1	3	Blue	Buffalo much better	
Brocton	Sept. 15	2	2	1	2	White	Poor grower	
Bronx Seedless	Sept. 20	4	2	2	4	Red	Too tender in bud	
Ruby	Sept. 25	3	2	1	4	Red	Very poor grower	
Yates	Sept. 28	2	2	2	3	Red	Promising	
Keuka	Sept. 28	4	2	1	2	Red	Not vigorous	
Hector	Oct. 5	3	2	2	2	Red	Subject to mildew	
Urbana	Oct. 5	2	2	2	2	Red	Ripens too late here	

NOTE: The figure 1 in the above table represents maximum or top value, 2 denotes very good, 3 means good or average, 4 indicates fair, and 5 denotes poor.