Dr. Albert F. Yeager

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Dr. Albert F. Yeager, outstanding horticulturist and internationally famous plant breeder, died suddenly on November 4, 1961. Dr. Yeager is best known for his origination of early-maturing, high-flavored, disease resistant or hardy varieties of fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants. His early, determinate Bison variety (1929) made possible the successful culture of tomatoes in North Dakota. His Victor variety exploited the uniform-ripening character, now widely useful in the canning trade. Doublerich tomato with its high Vitamin C content emphasized the nutritive value of tomatoes. The late-blight-resistant Rockingham tomato introduced in 1962 by the New Hampshire Agricultural Experiment Station originated as a result of his continuing vision in plant breeding. Sunshine sweetcorn, Buttercup squash, New Hampshire Midget watermelon, Greencrop bean are other noteworthy vegetables resulting from his skill as a plant breeder. Durham raspberry, Pixwell gooseberry, Yeager Sweet apple and Red River crabapple, and Sunapee peach are among the fruits resulting from Dr. Yeager's efforts. Three of his lilacs are also listed by nurseries.

His love of horticulture, his keen analytical mind, and his skilled presentation of subject matter made him an inspiring teacher. His students have achieved much success in horticulture and plant breeding. Two of his former students have become heads of horticultural departments in colleges in the United States; others are leading plant breeders now active in fulfilling their visions caught from an inspired leader.

For outstanding contributions of merit to agriculture, Dr. Yeager received wide recognition. In 1951, he was President of the American Society for Horticultural Science. In 1953, he received the Certificate of Merit in Plant Breeding of the Vegetable Growers' Association of America. In 1954, the Manitoba Horticultural Association of Canada presented him with the Stevenson Memorial Gold Medal for "conspicuous achievement in practical horticulture", an award given only to those whose valuable hardy varieties

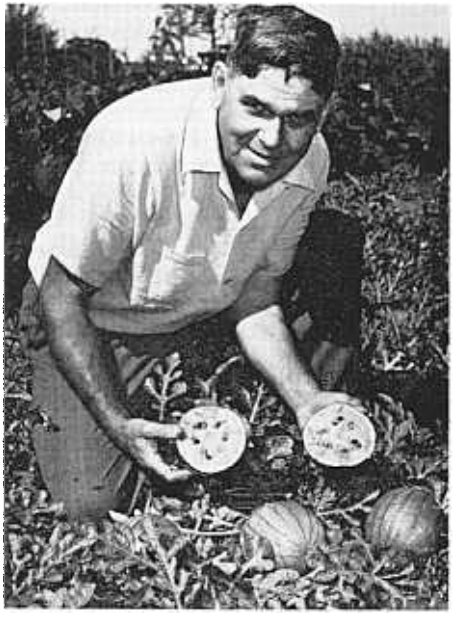

Fig. 1. **The late Dr. Albert F. Yeager, displaying the New Hampshire Midget watermelon, one of the many horticultural varieties of plants that developed over the years.**

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have been introduced successfully into Canadian prairie gardens, and given to only two other Americans. He was made an honorary life member of the New Hampshire Young Farmers' Association. In 1957, he received the Wilder Medal from the American Pomological Society at the meeting of the New Hampshire Horticultural Society; and in 1958, he was given the "Vegetable Man of the Year" award by the Vegetable Growers' Association of America for outstanding contributions to the vegetable industry.

Dr. Yeager was born February 12, 1892 at Bazaar, Kansas. He received his B. S. Degree from Kansas State College, his M. S. at Oregon State College in 1916, and in 1936 his Ph.D. (in genetics) from Iowa State College. After two years in the Horticultural Department of Pennsylvania State College, he went to North Dakota State College in 1919, where he became Chairman of the Department of Horticulture and Forestry in 1935. He was Asst. Prof. and Asst. Horticulturist at Michigan State College before becoming Head of Horticulture at the University of New Hampshire in 1939, a position he held until 1957. After becoming Professor Emeritus in Horticulture at the University of New Hampshire, Dr. Yeager moved to Florida and continued his plant breeding activities, giving particular attention to chrysanthemums.

He died November 4, 1961, at his home in Fort Myers, Florida, and was interred in Durham, New Hampshire. Dr. Yeager is survived by his wife, Arlene; a daughter, Mrs. L. Fred Hough, whose husband is a fruit breeder at the New Jersey Agr. Exp. Station, New Brunswick, N.J.; a son, Albert, of Portsmouth, N.H., grandchildren, and a sister in Kansas.

Grapes in Texas

The story of grapes in Texas is a very unique one. Many grape species are adapted to Texas conditions. The vinifera grow well in the southern parts. They mature early in the Rio Grande Valley and Laredo area, and can be put on the market even before California's table grapes. Recently, there has been much interest in this possibility. The American bunch grape does well in northeast Texas, the variety Fredonia in particular. Muscadines thrive in eastern Texas.

In the middle of the 19th century, immigrant European farmers crossed native muscadine and mustang varieties with European (vinifera) varieties to obtain wine and dessert types. Thomas V. Munson, of Denison, Texas, one of our great American horticulturists, made many such crosses in the late 1890's and early 1900's. His variety Carman is still grown extensively in north Texas because of its productivity, comparative resistance to insects and diseases, and fairly good quality. Beacon, another of Munson's varieties is still the most productive variety at Montague, and is used for juice and jelly.

A large collection of grape varieties and hybrids is maintained at the Fruit Investigations Laboratory, at Montague, a branch of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. Included are 100 French-American hybrids, among which are varieties having native Texas species in their parentage.

The Ewart pear has produced heavy crops of large pears of superior eating quality at Princeton, Kentucky, according to W. D. Armstrong. It has, however, been slow to bear in continuous sod.