

GRAFTING AMERICAN GRAPES ON VIGOROUS ROOTSTOCKS

By George O. Oberle, 1945.
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Riparia Gloire offered the greatest promise as a stock for Concord on gravelly soils. On heavy clay soils grafting Concord on Clinton gave yields of fruit approximately 75 per cent greater than those obtained from 'Concord' on their own roots.

Yield of grapes at Fredonia, N. Y.
1919 to 1941 in tons per acre.

Variety	Own Root	Clinton	Ruspestris St. George	Riparia Gloire
Catawba	2.23	3.28	2.60	2.86
Delaware	2.19	2.63	2.29	2.49
Niagara	1.99	3.09	2.91	2.66
Concord	2.75 (gravelly soil)	2.89	2.53	3.15
Concord	1.92 (clay soil)	3.35		

The quality of the fruit from the grafted vines was considered to be superior to fruit from own-rooted vines in practically all cases. Grafting had no influence on the time of leafing out in the spring nor on season of maturity of the fruit or wood. Growth of wood was always greater on grafted vines.

The chief difficulty at present is the lack of grafted vines, which are more expensive than own-rooted vines and are not available from nurseries. The grafting (by the whip technique) in winter is the usual procedure. The grafted vines are allowed to callus for 3 to 4 weeks and are then planted in a nursery row.

Grafted vines need to be pruned and cultivated carefully to avoid injury. They cannot, of course, be renewed from suckers. The productive lifetime of grafted vines is not known but is probably at least thirty years if given good care.—W.P.J.

ROBIN PEACH

Plant Pat. No. 529

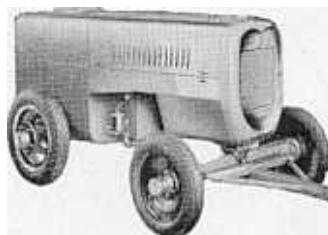
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