Grape Breeders' Conference

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Vineland Station, Ontario

The second conference of those persons in North America breeding American-type grapes was held at Vineland, Ontario, Canada, September 30 - October 1, 1963. Twelve states and Ontario were represented at the conference.

The first day was spent in the field visiting the 35-acre variety and seedling test block of the Experiment Station, as well as area vineyards. Two wineries were visited to see the crop being processed. Approximately 35 thousand tons of a 50 thousand ton crop are processed by the wineries.

The second day was devoted to a discussion of various problems in the grape-growing and breeding work. Discussion leaders and topics included the following:

Dr. James Moore, Agricultural Re-

Fig. 1. Participants in Grape Breeders' Conference at Vineland, Ontario, Sept. 30 and Oct. 1, 1963. *Seated, from left to right*: Underwood, U. H., N. C. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Fry, B. O., Ga. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Stover, L. H., Watermelon & Grape Lab., Leesburg, Fla.; Loomis, N. H. USDA Hort. Station, Meridian, Miss.; Einset, John, N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Barrett, H. C., Univ. of Ill. *Standing, left to right*: Mortensen, J. N., Watermelon & Grape Lab., Leesburg, Fla.; Oberle, George, Va. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Dermen, Haig, USDA, Beltsville; Remaily, George, Burnt House Hill Rd., RD 2, Doylestown, Pa.; Bradt, O. A., Vineland Hort. Exp. Sta.; Kerr, E. A., Vineland Hort. Exp. Sta.; Bowen, Hollis, N. J. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Meyer, H. M., Amer. Refrig. Transit Co., Harlington, Texas; Gilmer, R. M., N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Moore, James, USDA, Beltsville; McGrew, J. R., USDA, Beltsville; Ourecky, D., N. Y. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Hough, L. F., N. J. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Sefick, H. J., S. C. Agr. Exp. Sta.; Nesbitt, W., N. J. Agr. Exp. Sta.

search Service, Beltsville, Md. spoke on "Breeding for Juice Grapes." Dr. R. M. Gilmer, Dept. of Plant Pathology, N. Y. Expt. Station, Geneva discussed the virus situation in New York State.

Dr. H. C. Barrett, Dept. of Horticulture, Univ. of Illinois led a discussion on breeding for disease resistance. Those taking part were Harry Meyer, Horticulturist, American Refrigerator Transit Co., who discussed his breeding and screening selections for cotton root rot and nematode resistance. N. H. Loomis, U.S.D.A. Hort. Sta., Meridan, Miss. told of his breeding for tolerance to Pierce's disease. Dr. J. R. McGrew, Agr. Research Service, Beltsville gave observations and data on artificial inoculation for black rot at Beltsville. Loren Stover of Leesburg, Florida told of developing types resistant to Pierce's disease using different species.

B. O. Fry, Experiment, Ga. discussed some of the work of R. L. Farrer of Georgia, whose Farrer 30 was the first fertile hybrid of *Vitis rotundifolia x Vitis vinifera.*

Another discussion of interest was led by William B. Nesbitt of Rutgers University, New Brunswick, N. J. on "Results of Interspecific Hybridization between Muscadine and Bunch Grapes."

Dr. John Einset brought a collection of seedless grapes from Geneva, N. Y. and told of some of their work in breeding for seedlessness. O. A. Bradt, with the cooperation of Ralph Crowther of the Horticultural Products Lab. had a display of grape varieties, selections, and wine made from some of the crosses that produce high quality.

At a short business session it was decided to hold the next conference in July, 1965, at Leesburg, Florida under the chairmanship of Dr. John Mortensen.

Apple Varieties in Ontario

B. J. E. Teskey, of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont., traces the history of apple varieties in Ontario in the Canadian Fruit Grower, March, 1964. He tells us that the varieties recommended in Ontario back in 1863 were as follows: Astrachan, Duchess, Alexander, Ribston, Gravenstein, Fameuse, Hubbardston, Wagner, Tolman, Northern Spy, Golden Russett, R. I. Greening, Baldwin and King.

In 1908, 49 varieties were reported being grown in Ontario, including Wolf River, Ben Davis, McIntosh, Wealthy and Transparent. Of these old varieties, R. I. Greening, Northern Spy and McIntosh have remained popular.

In 1962, the picture was quite different, with McIntosh, Northern Spy and Delicious making up about 70% of the apples grown in Ontario. Most of the remainder consisted of R. I. Greening, Cortland, Wealthy, Lodi and Melba.

Harrold Red Delicious Apple

D. V. Fisher, of Summerland, B. C., has made the following comments about the Harrold Red Delicious apple: "This sport has proven to possess the highest and earliest coloring characteristics of any of the 45 strains that have fruited at Summerland, with the possible exception of Starkrimson. It finishes to a dark, solid-red color, even in our warmest areas, where color is frequently a problem." The Canadian rights for propagating the Harrold Red Delicious are owned by the B. C. Fruit Growers Association.