

Reviews and Abstracts

Grape Varieties for New Mexico. 1963

By D. T. Sullivan and J. V. Enzie.
New Mexico Agr. Exp. Sta. Bul.
475.

This bulletin is essentially a report on the performance of 25 grape varieties from 1956 to 1960. This planting is part of a testing program, the purpose of which is to try to find grape varieties better suited to New Mexico conditions than are the ones now being grown.

Many of the varieties were tested on Solonis 1613 rootstocks as well as on their own roots. In addition to observations on plant performance, the authors have included data on the soluble solids and acid content, and pH of the fruit juice.

European type varieties tested were Black Monukka, Thompson Seedless, Black Muscat, Black Cornichon, Italia, Black Hamburg, Mission and Cardinal. American grapes tested were Concord, Westfield and Herbert. Hybrids included were Seneca, Keuka, Downing, Scarlet, Perlette, Himrod, Siebel 6339, and Baco #1.

Antoine Nicholas Duchesne — First Strawberry Hybridist.* By Vivian Lee. Amer. Hort. Mag., April, 1964: p. 80-88.

This well documented article deals with the fascinating story of the botanist Antoine Duchesne and his amazing work with strawberries in the middle of the 18th century. The author tells us of how, at the age of 19, Duchesne had already written a fine botanical work entitled "Natural History of Strawberries," which was published in 1766.

It was Duchesne who discovered that plants of *Fragaria moschata* and

F. chiloensis have either female or male flowers (doecious), but not both. It was he who also first suspected that the cultivated strawberry of the Europe of his day (which he called *F. x ananassa*) was a hybrid of *F. virginiana* and *F. chiloensis*.

Duchesne left behind him much valuable unpublished research, including fine drawings of strawberries, which are now the property of the Natural Museum of Paris, where much of the research for this article was done. Six of the drawings, photographed by the author in Paris, are included in this fine article.

Peach Growing in the Interior of British Columbia. 1964. By D. V. Fisher. SP 35, Res. Sta., Canada Dept. of Agr., Summerland, B. C.

Peach production in British Columbia is concentrated in the Okanagan Valley, in the southern interior part of the province. Peaches bring to the growers of this area about \$1,500,000 annually. We are told that peaches are steadily declining, and will continue to do so unless steps are taken to stop the trend.

Thinning, pruning, soil management and other orchard practices are discussed, and recommendations of the Summerland Station are presented.

Varieties of peaches now recommended are Redhaven, Fairhaven, Triogem and Golden Jubilee (for canning only); for limited trial: Early Redhaven, Earligold, Royalvee, Dixigem, Redtop, Vedoka and Redglobe. Some 80 varieties are now under test at the Summerland Station. Performance data and descriptions of the more promising test varieties are included.

*This article is based on a paper presented at a dinner following a Fruit Breeders' Symposium in August, 1963, at the University of Mass., Amherst, Mass.