

lished tree, but comes a damaging freeze or fungus, the introduced clones are knocked out.

Pruning is a problem in the multiple-variety tree. A renewal system that takes out limbs that have been brought too low by heavy fruiting, can not be employed,—and the varieties maintained—without regrafting the low varieties into oncoming limbs, higher up. Vigorous varieties have to be over-pruned so that they do not over-crowd slow growing varieties. Varieties no longer wanted are left in the tree for numbers sake; or are left in because they are second on a limb that has a desirable terminal variety.

Eventually, however, the multiple-variety builder does achieve some of his goals, the surest of which is: He will have many varieties to experience, to enjoy and to share—in one manner or another.

When the pros and cons of a project are in, and the disadvantages seem to outweigh the advantages—as presented here—the true summation of

the writer's arguments is in his answer to the question: Would you do it again?

Yes. Under like circumstances, I'd do it over. But, if I should have the choice, I would work only with true dwarfing stocks, and I would not go beyond five varieties to a tree—and that many only where I wanted but a sampling. Where fruit for extended use was desired, I'd have a tree or trees of a single variety.

And where experience dictated, or knowledge was available (in these 3- 4- 5-way trees) I would group with an eye to vigor, grafting weak growers in one tree, strong growers in another. I would also group by spray requirements, keeping together those varieties that need spray for blight, for mildew, for scab, etc.

Far from the least reason in the decision to repeat my failures and successes with several to many varieties in a single tree, is the opportunity it would give me to meet the fine and generous sort of people who helped me in gathering my variety collections.

## The Vale Strawberry

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The Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, and the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station, have introduced the strawberry variety Vale, formerly tested as US-Oreg. 2331. Vale originated as a seedling from the cross US-Oreg. 2012 x US-Oreg. 2100, made by G. F. Waldo in Corvallis in 1950, and was selected by him in 1952. It has been tested at Corvallis by G. F. Waldo; the North Willamette Experiment Station, Aurora by R. M. Bullock; and the Malheur ex-

periment Station, Ontario, by E. N. Hoffman.

Vale, when first tested, as US-Oreg. 2331, attracted considerable attention because of its plant size, producing few and sometimes no runners. This plant vigor seemed to be maintained even when grown in soil contaminated with red stele although greenhouse bench tests did show that it was susceptible. Fruit production was also comparable to plant vigor, with yields of 10 to 13 tons per acre.

Since few runners are produced,

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growers in western Oregon were much interested, since runner control in other varieties increases the cost of production. Several extensive tests were made in the Willamette Valley, and good vigor and high yields were obtained with Vale. Nearly all of the strawberry production in western Oregon, however, is processed by freezing, and varieties must meet the requirements of this outlet before being accepted. When quantities of this selection were processed it was found that the product was unacceptable, due chiefly to being too soft and having an undesirable color. Further testing for western Oregon has therefore been given up.

Tests at the Malheur Experiment Station near Ontario, Oregon, on the Idaho border, have shown that Vale performs somewhat differently than in the Willamette Valley. Here, more runners are produced and berries are firmer and have better color, although not bright. In this area no other variety has appeared as acceptable in the home garden and for local markets. Local people, having seen Vale before it was released, preferred it to Marshall and Robinson, which they have been growing.

Vale is a mid-season variety that begins ripening about June 1, and continues to ripen throughout the month of June in eastern Oregon. The early berries of Vale are large, but become smaller toward the end of the season. Berries are conic, slightly necked, and separate easily from the calyx. The color is medium-dark red, not bright, and does not change after picking. The internal flesh color is uniformly red. The surface of the berry and the flesh are medium-firm. The flavor is pleasing, mildly acid, and when frozen is comparable to varieties now grown for freezing.

Plants of Vale are winter hardy, and produce an abundance of leaves, but only a moderate number of runners.

The flower stems are medium to long, with from 7 to 15 blossoms per cluster. Plants are resistant to the strains of red stele present in Oregon, but do not tolerate virus diseases. However, these diseases are not serious in eastern Oregon. Vale plants appear somewhat tolerant of salinity.

Vale is introduced as a home garden and local market strawberry because of its red stele resistance, winter hardiness, productive plants and good flavored fruit, and is recommended for use in eastern Oregon, eastern Washington, and western Idaho.

Crops Research Division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture does not have plants for distribution. Information on sources of plants may be obtained from E. N. Hoffman, Malheur Experiment Station, Ontario, Oregon.

### Norris Grape from Florida

The Florida Experiment Station recently introduced a dessert type bunch graped called Norris for home use and local market. Named after retired County Agent R. E. Norris, it is a purple grape about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter, containing 2 or 3 seeds. The vine is productive, yielding 18 lbs. per plant at Leesburg without irrigation. It is self-sterile, resistant to downy mildew, somewhat resistant to black rot, and susceptible to anthracnose in rainy weather. Norris grows well on its own roots. It begins to grow in March, and the berries ripen in late July at Leesburg.

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John Einset and Keith Kimball report in Farm Research that the New York Agr. Exp. Station has a promising grape seedling under observation, N. Y. 45747. The selection (Van Buren x Concord) has the typical Concord flavor, ripens earlier than that variety, and may therefore, extend the season for juice grapes.