

vegetative propagation of selected local seedlings is worthwhile. It is only recently that such work has been undertaken, with two objectives of which the production of good "canning clings" is the most attractive. There are hundreds of "melocotones"

(large, yellow-fleshed clingstones) in the Central American highlands (and doubtless elsewhere in tropical America) which are suitable for canning as "halves." No horticultural varieties of these excellent peaches are available yet, but they soon will be.

New Muscadine Grape Varieties

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Three new muscadine grape varieties were recently released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Southland is a dark-fruited variety which ripens in mid-season, at about the same season as Hunt and Thomas. Its fruit is of medium size, averaging about the same size, number per pound, as Hunt. The sugar content of Southland ranges from 18-18.8 percent, or about 3 points higher than that of Scuppernong.

Among the perfect-flowered muscadine grape varieties, it is of superior fruit size and quality, and it is especially recommended for home plantings.

Southland originated from a cross of Thomas and a seedling of Topsail parentage. It was tested as Meridian Miss. No. 13.

Bountiful and **Chief** are rather small-fruited, dark-colored muscadine grapes; they have outstanding quality, and ripen in late mid-season, when most other muscadine grape varieties, excepting Yuga and Creek, are gone. The flavor of Bountiful is somewhat richer and more vinous than that of Chief. Bountiful tends to shatter at full maturity. Chief has done well in trials in central Florida.

It seems probable that these two varieties will be widely grown both commercially and for home use, be-

cause of their exceptionally fine fruit flavor and productivity, and because they mature when few other muscadine grapes are available. At Meridian, Mississippi, they were superior in flavor to all other dark-fruited, perfect-flowered varieties, and also to most of the imperfect-flowered varieties.

Bountiful and Chief are sister vines, seedlings of Creek and a Hopsail sibling. They were tested as Meridian Miss. Nos. 45-16D, and selection No. 18.

These varieties were developed at the U. S. Horticultural Field Station, Meridian, Mississippi, and are recommended for trial in the muscadine region. The Agricultural Experiment Stations of Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North and South Carolina have tested these selections in 16 locations.

For a number of years, A. P. S. published annual proceedings jointly with the state horticultural society with which it shared its annual meeting. The last of these proceedings was for the year 1955, its 70th meeting. From then on, annual reports and information dealing with annual meetings have been published in *Fruit Varieties and Horticultural Digest*.

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