

23-4 (S 14665 X Black Monukka): Flowers with upright stamens. The vine is very vigorous and bears well. Clusters are large, shouldered, tapering, fairly loose to slightly compact (See Fig. 2). Berries are oval-ovate, reddish-black, medium-large, delicious, and rather firm. The foliage and berries were totally resistant to black rot in 1966, a very wet season, when many varieties were severely infected. This is a truly beautiful grape.

29-2 (Ravat 262 X Bronx Seedless): Flowers with upright stamens. The vine is extremely vigorous as well as productive. Clusters are medium-sized, cylindrical, and rather loose. Berries are medium-large, round, black with white bloom and very attractive. The leaf petioles are red and foliage dark green. The berries have tough skin and delicious flavor. The foliage and fruit were completely free from black rot infection in 1966. 29-2 is probably acceptable for both fresh fruit and juice. Ripens early.

33-1 (Galibert 255-10 X Bronx Seedless): Flowers have reflexed stamens. The vine is of extreme vigor and

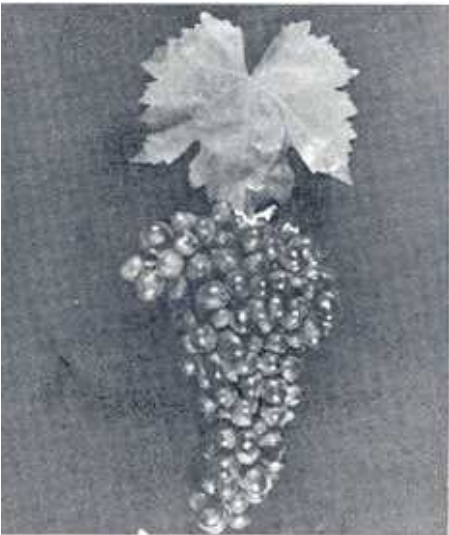


Fig. 2. Meyer's hybrid, #23-4, of Black Monukka parentage, with delicious, rather firm, reddish-black berries.

very productive. Clusters are medium large, loose to well-filled, shouldered to cylindrical. Berries are very large, round to round-oval, black with slight muscat flavor. The pulp separates from the skin. The berry is medium-firm. This is the largest berried variety produced to date in our breeding program, averaging slightly larger than Ribier. The variety is slightly resistant to black rot.

50-7 (SV 15-403 X Black Monukka): Flowers with upright stamens. The vine is extremely vigorous and very productive. Clusters are very large, fairly compact, shouldered and tapering to cylindrical and long-tapered. Berries are medium-large, round, black, crisp and fairly firm, with good dessert quality. The vine and fruit seem to be resistant to black rot. This grape is outstanding in attractiveness. It ripens in late mid-season.

Blackberry Breeding in Florida

A blackberry breeding program is under way at the University of Florida at Gainesville, according to W. B. Sherman, of the Fruit Crops Department, to develop improved varieties for Florida. Currently available varieties, Floridagrاند and Oklawaha have the objectionable feature of being trailing in growth habit; and Brazos is susceptible to the fungus disease, "witches broom." Attempts are also being made to incorporate genetic thornlessness, as well as better handling and processing quality into their breeding lines.

Since 1963, according to Art Gaus, Extension Horticulturist of the University of Missouri, Jonathan, Delicious, and Golden Delicious, have provided 80 to 87% of the apple production of Missouri. Jonathan is the leader, accounting for 37 to 51% during the same period, but is slowly losing ground to Delicious and Golden Delicious.