

The Alwood Grape

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The grape breeding program of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station has reached the stage of producing tangible results with the recent naming and introduction of a new variety named Alwood.

Alwood is a seedling of Fredonia crossed with Athens. The cross was made in 1949 by R. C. Moore. The original vine first bore fruit in 1953. It was held for further observation because its fruit was free from black rot infection which was severe in the Blacksburg area that year. The clusters were noted as being attractive and of above average flavor and quality. It was selected for propagation and further testing in 1955. Fruiting records on the propagation paralleled those of the original vine, and before his retirement in 1964 Mr. Moore se-

lected it for eventual naming and releasing. The name Alwood was chosen for it in recognition of the late William B. Alwood, the first horticulturist of the staff of the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, and an eminent authority on grape culture, grape physiology and wine making.

The original vine of Alwood has a record of bearing full crops of fruit for fifteen consecutive years, even though it is located in a low, frost susceptible area of the vineyard. That location is favorable for fruit and foliage infection by black rot, anthracnose, downy mildew and powdery mildew on susceptible varieties. Alwood has shown only slight infections by these diseases even in years that had severe infection by one or more of these diseases on the fruit and foliage of some other variety. The fruiting canes mature early, and winter injury to the canes has been observed only on vines that were permitted to set more fruit than they could be expected to mature.

The clusters ripen uniformly at Blacksburg and have not been subject to the uneven coloring and ripening of the berries shown by Concord in the warmer areas of Virginia.

Alwood ripens a few days after Fredonia, or about two-and-a-half weeks before Concord. The vine is of medium vigor, and requires fertile and well drained soil. The cane internodes are short, giving the vine a dense or bushy type of growth. The leaves are thick and of leathery texture. The clusters are of medium size, compact, cylindrical to tapering in shape, and often have attractive shoulders.



Fig. 1. Alwood grape, growing at the Virginia Agricultural Experiment Station, August 22, 1966.

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The medium size berries are bluish-black in color with a heavy, waxy bloom that enhances their appearance. The berries hang longer on the vine after they are fully mature than those of Fredonia, Van Buren and Moore Early without losing their bloom, appearance and flavor. The slipskin is of medium thickness and toughness, and has not been subject to cracking when showers occurred as the fruit was ripening. The flavor is

sweet, moderately foxy, and comparable to that of Worden or well ripened Concord. The quality is rated as good if the vines are not allowed to overbear. Because of its short internodes and production of fruit buds at all nodes, the vine must be pruned carefully, and some cluster thinning may be advisable.

Vines are available from several commercial nurseries.

Six High Quality, Bacterial Spot Resistant Peach Varieties From North Carolina

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The North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station has named and released six new peach varieties that combine high quality and bacterial spot resistance. They cover a wide range of season of ripening from very early to late.

The objectives of the peach breeding program of the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station are to develop new peach varieties that combine good horticultural qualities and resistance to bacterial spot (*Xanthomonas pruni*). This disease cannot be satisfactorily controlled with chemicals. The only solution for the production of peaches in the areas where the disease is a problem to plant varieties with a good degree of resistance to the disease.

Peach varieties immune to bacterial spot are not known. However, they vary widely in their susceptibility to this disease. Many of the more important varieties are very susceptible to bacterial spot and cannot be recommended for planting in areas of light sandy soils.

The following six new varieties have shown good to excellent resistance to

bacterial spot where they were originated and tested at the Sandhills Research Station near Jackson Springs, North Carolina:

Whynot: Resulted in a seedling from open pollinated seed of Erly-Red-Fre. The seeds were collected from the center of a large block of trees in 1956. The seedling fruited first in 1959. This is the earliest ripening peach tested in North Carolina. In the Sandhills area the fruits start to ripen from May 16 to May 24, or 3 to 5 days before Marcus. The fruits are small (1¾-2"), round, attractive, with short pubescence. Three-fourths of the skin surface is covered with a bright red blush over a medium yellow ground color. The flesh is very firm for an early peach, melting, fine texture and has a good flavor. It has a medium yellow color with very little, if any, red pigment. The flesh will separate from the pit only when soft ripe. The trees are of medium vigor, good form and productive. The flower is non-showy, self-fruitful and the blooming date is about the same as that of Redhaven. Whynot is moderately resistant to bacterial spot and

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