

THE CANADIAN HORTICULTURIST

Vol 24

1901

No 11

* * NOVEMBER * *

JESSICA.

An excellent dessert grape for the amateur's garden.

ORIGIN: Canada, a seedling raised by W. H. Read, of Port Dalhousie, introduced by Mr. D. W. Beadle, of St. Catharines, and first described in the Canadian Horticulturist for February, 1884.

VINE: fairly vigorous, hardy and healthy.

BUNCH: 5 inches long by $3\frac{1}{2}$ broad, shouldered, compact.

BERRY: medium, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in diameter; color, yellowish green to white; skin thin; pulp tender, juicy; flavor sprightly, sweet and very agreeable, free from foxiness.

QUALITY: very good for dessert.

VALUE: market, too small; home uses, first-class.

SEASON: last of August.

ADAPTATION: general.

WHEN well grown and well ripened the Jessica is a variety of which we are not ashamed to say that it is of Canadian origin. Our photograph, by Miss Brodie, well represents its appearance, and is almost a fac-simile of a colored plate prepared for Mr. Beadle by Rolph Smith & Co., of Toronto, in 1884.

Mr. Alfred Hoskins, of Deer Park, Toronto, ripened this grape in 1883, and claimed for it productiveness and earliness, and the merit of being the only one out of twenty varieties which fully ripened its fruit. Mr. Jas. Vick writes in his monthly in 1885 that

the Jessica ripened with him, on Canandaigua lake on August 22, ten days earlier than Champion, and in 1887 Mr. S. Powers wrote of it as follows:—

The Jessica outdoes in flavor any garden grape known, and it is a wonder that no more is said about it. The little white grape, with its small clusters, is not over-attractive, but once between your lips, you will avow it has all the good qualities a grape can have in one. Sweet, with honeyed touch at first taste, succeeded by a freshness of mild acid, and a bouquet that lingers on the sense, it is a grape for connoisseurs to linger over and praise.

All these good words are fully borne out this season by its conduct in our experimental plot. Near it we had the Green Mountain, and on selecting samples of both for photographing we were much struck with their close resemblance in bunch and berry. The flavor of our Canadian was superior to Green Mountain, but otherwise one could declare them identical.

We in Canada have been much disappointed in the latter, which was introduced with so much eclat by Stephen Hoyt &