

stint. It is said that in the wine countries of Europe, during the grape harvest, almost every one you meet on the highway carries a cluster to eat as he goes along, and my own observation has convinced me that grapes may be eaten without restraint, and with beneficial effect.

The failure of vine culture in Montreal is due, not to the soil or climate, as many suppose, but to prevalent mistakes. In the choice of varieties, our people have been guided mainly by interested parties, and have failed in most instances to secure any of the few that are adapted to our short season. Let me say here that any variety that is not fully ripe before the 10th September is unsuitable, no matter how valuable it may be elsewhere.

About twenty years ago the writer obtained from a nursery in Central New York about a dozen of what were then considered the best varieties. The qualities of each were set forth in glowing terms by writers on fruit culture and by nursery agents, but after patient care bestowed equally upon all, I found but two (the Delaware and the Concord) that could be relied on for a crop. The Delaware is so well known and deservedly prized that any remarks of mine regarding it would be superfluous. The only objection I have to it is that, in dry seasons, it is liable to suffer from the thrip. The Concord, which I regard as an early variety of the Isabella, I have found, above all others that I have tried, to be the vine best adapted to the climate of Montreal. It is hardy, a vigorous grower, ripens early and gives a larger yield of fruit than any variety I am acquainted with. I have never known it to fail in any of these qualities.

A very common cause of failure results from an impression that the proper place to plant a vine is against a wall or a high fence. No greater mistake can be made. The grape vine is a free grower, and must have abundance of air, as well as sunshine. For this reason crowding must also be avoided. There should be a space of at least twelve feet between each vine, and not more than two stems allowed from each root. Thus I would trim off all shoots and branches up to about four feet, and train high. I have always found the finest clusters at the top of an eight-foot trellis.