



Good Methods Bring These Results

Varieties of Grapes*

F. G. Stewart, Homer, Ont.

Out of the scores of varieties of grapes we might plant, the six best varieties for profitable growing I consider are as follows in descending order of values: the Concord, Worden and Niagara, Moore's Early, Vergennes and Agawam.

The first two do equally well in sand or clay, but the Concord, which is a blue grape is the one most extensively grown, and the most profitable one we have. It is a good shipper, a hardy grower, and preferred by the women to any other kind. The first few inches of the new spring foliage is very rough and furry, and so this variety of grape resists the early spring frosts better than the smoother leaved kinds, such as the Rogers.

The Worden, a black grape, is also a hardy and vigorous grower. It is a good bearer, but although a higher flavored grape than the Concord, it is not such a good shipper, as the skin is thin. Like the Concord, its foliage is furry and able to resist the early frosts.

The Niagara is a white grape, a splendid bearer, but being a smooth-leaved kind, does not stand the early frosts as well as the Concord and Worden.

The Moore's Early is another black grape, hardy, of good quality, earlier than the other kinds mentioned, but not such a heavy producer. I would not recommend it for hard ground as it does not produce enough wood on such land.

The Vergennes, a red grape, is a heavy bearer, of good quality, ripening a week later than the Concord, and like them in being able to withstand the early spring frosts. In trimming this variety, no more than twenty-four buds should be left to a vine as each bud will throw out from four to five bunches, where other kinds would put forth but two or three at most. This kind is thus apt to overbear, and if it does the grapes will not color up properly.

The Agawam, a red Roger grape, is thick skinned, a good shipper and heavy bearer. It does best on clay, as it makes too much wood and foliage on light soils.

The Lindley does better in the heavy soil around Winona than in any other part of Ontario.

Fruit trees and vines are perennial occupants of the soil and do not yield the most profitable returns in ground which is over-rich in nitrogenous materials, and for these artificial supplies of potash are essential if fruit of highest quality is desired.

*A paper read at the annual convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association in Toronto, November, 1912.

Best Six Varieties of Peaches¹

Wm. Armstrong, Queenstown, Ont.

I have been requested to name six varieties of peaches which would prove the best for an up-to-date commercial peach orchard. After over forty years experience in peach growing, and especially when I consider the experience of the past two or three years, I will recommend only three or four varieties as suitable for a commercial orchard.

There is a well defined season for each kind of fruit. Peaches maturing and offered for sale very early or very late in the season are seldom profitable when compared with standard varieties maturing when the market demands this kind of fruit.

VARIETIES RECOMMENDED

The varieties I recommend have been fully tested by me in Niagara Township and are as follows: Yellow St. John, Fitzgerald, New Prolific, Elberta; these four and no more.

The St. John is a well known early profitable, yellow flesh, free stone, highly colored, luscious dessert peach. It ripens about August 20th. The bud is more hardy than any of the Crawford type or family of peach, which it resembles. It has one undesirable feature, namely, after its eighth year it often has the bad habit of forming clusters of buds on the end of short spurs, which should be reduced by rubbing off more than half the buds on young fruit.

The Fitzgerald is also a free stone, yellow peach, maturing about the 15th August. It is more hardy in bud than the St. John, but not so high in color or large in size.

The New Prolific is the most profitable of all peaches, maturing during the height of the peach season about September 8th. It is not as high in color nor as large in size as the St. John, but more hardy in bud, a size cropper, free stone yellow peach. It requires careful trimming and liberal feeding.

The Elberta is well known, and requires little introduction, maturing about September 20th. It is a good long distance shipper and fairly hardy in bud.

Potash improves the quality and color of fruit, and aids in the formation of starch and sugar.

They used to keep the orchard as a pasture lot and headed the trees high to keep the cows from them, but orchard land is too valuable for pasture purposes and stock have no business in an orchard that is being worked for apples. They pack the soil and break the trees.—A. Nagelwoort, Brighton, Ont.

¹A paper read at the last annual convention of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association.

bling Spy. The tree bears very early and is most productive. When well grown, the color is good and in most cases is even better than the color of Spy. I should be glad to know what readers of The Canadian Horticulturist think of this variety, and am anxious to learn with what success it is being produced throughout the province generally. I should also like to know if any are growing Spitzenburg to any extent, and if they are able to get good crops. This is one of the most desirable of winter dessert apples, and in addition to high quality possesses also splendid color. It is usually a light bearer; possibly this characteristic could be changed by proper care or feeding. For southern Ontario it might prove a desirable variety.

The chief disadvantage of Northern Spy is lack of color. In my opinion, it is time we made arrangements in our middle districts, such as the north shore of Lake Ontario, to hold a larger proportion of our Spies for the late winter trade. The Spy, grown in a short-season locality, is not an attractive market apple until well into the winter, and a green Spy on the Christmas market is a very poor sample of what Ontario can produce.

For planting with Northern Spy, there is probably no better variety than Blenheim. Blenheim should be, I think, one of our leading varieties. The fruit is large, very attractive in color, not subject to scab, and the tree is decidedly productive under good care. It is naturally rather late in coming into bearing, but would no doubt respond to proper treatment in the same way as any other variety, and can doubtless be made to produce good crops at a moderate age. Blenheim and Northern Spy are both in the front rank as dessert and cooking varieties.