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LINDLEY

A FEW years ago the Lindley, or Roger's No. 9, was a favorite red grape with vinedressers, and it was planted quite freely in commercial vineyards. It was also a favorite for the dessert table, for its quality is excellent and its pretty and peculiar red color shows up its bunches finely in the dessert dish, along with Niagara and Concord, making a display of our emblematic colors, the red, white and blue.

In some instances vineyards of Lindley have yielded splendid crops, amounting in one case to an average of about thirty pounds to the vine; but it was not long before the variety began to fail in productiveness and become unprofitable. Perhaps this failure was due to the thrip, which is very troublesome on vines of the Lindley, for they weaken them by sucking the sap from the leaves. Anyway, whatever may be the reason, we find that of late years our Lindleys never give a good yield of fruit, and it is very difficult to select out bunches that are really perfect. We cannot, therefore, recommend the Lindley as a market variety, and, since it is scarcely the equal of the Delaware in quality, it cannot displace that excellent little grape for the dessert table.

Perhaps if we could succeed in destroying the thrip this grape might recover the place

it held when President Wilder, of the celebrated Massachusetts Horticultural Society, denominated it and Jefferson "the Muscats of America," and when in the Bushberg catalogue it was recommended as a "fine table grape, one of the best of the red hybrids."

It was on the encouragement given by such favorable statements that about ten years ago we planted a vineyard of Lindleys at Maplehurst, but every year they have been growing less satisfactory, until now we expect soon to be obliged to root them out, for they are only a breeding place of thrips, which swarm over to the other varieties.

Lindley is an excellent keeping grape, holding its rich flavor in ordinary storage, well on into the winter, and in a dry atmosphere it turns almost to a raisin.

There is a grape called Mary in our collection which very closely resembles Lindley, so closely indeed that experts are puzzled to decide whether it is really distinct or not. We notice, however, that it is a better grower, that the bunches are more compact, and, if anything, brighter in color. Perhaps it may prove better able to resist the vexatious thrip than the Lindley, and, if so, it will establish its distinct identity.