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THE VERGENNES GRAPE.



OUR various sorts of grapes might well be classified, as our apples and pears are, according to their keeping qualities. Some varieties, as, for instance, the Lady, are fall grapes, and need to be eaten soon

after their time of ripening, or they will begin to decay; others, like the one under consideration, are winter grapes, and may, with a little care, be kept in good condition all winter. The Vergennes, although it ripens with the Concord, is not in prime eating condition until the month of December, by which time it has mellowed and improved in flavor; it reaches its best in February, and may be kept much longer with due precaution. This is an important point in its favor when we remember the acknowledged virtue of the grape as a medicinal agent; and in planting varieties for family use we need not only to consider variety of color, but also what selection will give us successive supplies for our table. For winter red grapes, then, we may plant the Vergennes and the Salem, the latter

being Rogers' No. 22, and possessing keeping qualities nearly equal to those of the former.

The Vergennes is a choice seedling which sprung up in Mr. Wm. E. Green's garden, at Vergennes, Vt., after which place it is named. The first fruit was borne in the year 1874, and in the winter of 1880-1 it was exhibited at various horticultural meetings, receiving high commendations, especially for its keeping qualities.

The following is a description of the grape:—*Clusters* medium to large and somewhat loose; *berries* large, round, holding firmly to the stem; *flavor* rich; *skin* very thick, tough, red, covered with a beautiful bloom; *flesh* free from hard pulp, of pleasant but not rich flavor.

The vine is of the Labrusca family, and has the vigor and health so characteristic of it. That it is hardy enough for most parts of Ontario seems to be almost certain, for it has been successfully grown by W. Meade Pattison, at Clarenceville, Province of Quebec. Mr. S. D. Willard, of Geneva, N.Y., gives his experience with it of the past season as follows: "I find the Vergennes coming fully up to my expectations. As the