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THE EARLY VICTOR GRAPE.

OF the one hundred and fifty varieties of grapes in our collection, there is no black grape which seems more worthy of notice than the Early Victor. After trying for years to satisfy himself that it was right to hoax the buyer with Champion, which has so nearly ruined the market for early black grapes, it is a real comfort to the fruit grower to find a grape that is about as early in ripening, and, at the same time, of really good quality.

We notice that it colors very early, fully two weeks ahead of Concord, and is fit to gather about ten days before, along with Hartford and Moore's Early. Watts, of the Tennessee Experiment Station, says of it, "A superior early black grape, valuable in the home collection. Moore's Early is more profitable for market." Campbell, of Ohio, said of it, "I know of no black grape so well fitted to take the place of all foxy abominations (Champion, Ives, Hartford, Janesville) which have been tolerated on account of their earliness.

"I am glad to recognize in this variety a really good, very early black grape, with a vine evidently of the healthiest and hardiest type of the Labrusca class."

The Early Victor was originated by John Burr, of Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1870. He was an advocate of natural fertilization, believing that nature selected, under the environment, the pollen most congenial to perpetuate its species. He planted in his garden Catawba, Bland, Isabella, Hartford, Delaware, Concord, Salem and Goethe, and permitted no others to grow near enough to pollinise them. First he selected the Concord, taking the seed from the finest bunches, but after trying seedlings from it and from Isabella, Hartford and others of the distinctly Labrusca type, he selected seeds from the Delaware, and the very first sprout was Early Victor.

Mr. John Burr passed away in 1892, being of the same age as the Century, after a life of much unselfish devotion to the interests of fruit growers.

The following is our description of this grape as it grows in Ontario.

ORIGIN: John Burr, Leavenworth, Kansas, from seed of Delaware fertilized with a vigorous grape of the Labrusca class.

VINE: Very vigorous, very productive and healthy.