
CANEBRAKE

Agricultural Experiment Station,

UNIONTOWN, - - ALABAMA.

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Grapes, Strawberries, and Raspberries.

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CANE BRAKE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION,
UNIONTOWN, - - ALABAMA.

BULLETIN No. 12. - - OCTOBER, 1891

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GRAPES.

In February, 1889, a new vineyard was planted with twenty-six varieties, six vines of each variety. The following is clipped from Bulletin No. 6, describing the situation of the old vines and method of cultivating, pruning and training on trellis. The new vineyard was planted adjacent to the old one on the north side:

“The vineyard is on a northern exposure on what is known as ‘red prairie’ land, the rows running east and west. The vines were placed eight feet each way. The land was thoroughly prepared and fertilized with cotton seed meal and cotton seed hulls. In February or March of each year they were fertilized with cotton seed meal and cotton seed hull ashes, sown broadcast and plowed in shallow, being careful not to run nearer than two feet to the plants, and not deep enough to break the roots. One row of field peas was planted in each middle and the vines left to decay on the land. The vines lessen the cost of cultivation by shading out the grass and weeds and acting as a mulch. The varieties received the same treatment in planting, fertilizing, pruning and cultivation. The young vines were cut back two buds when transplanted. The first summer only one main cane was allowed to grow, and that was pinched back when it had attained a growth of three or four feet. All the laterals were pinched back when they were about one foot in length. No trellis was used the first summer, but only straight, stout stick, to which the main cane was tied.

“The following winter the vines were cut back to three or four buds. On the vigorous growing varieties three canes were allowed to grow the next season, and on the weak ones only two. The canes were pinched back when they had attained a growth of three or four feet, and the laterals when about twelve or eighteen inches. All the fruit was rubbed off as soon as formed. A trellis was used for the second summer’s growth, consisting of three wires.

The posts were placed between the alternate vines, making them sixteen feet apart. The first wire is two feet from the ground, the second and third twenty inches apart. The vines were spread out fan shaped and tied securely to the vines. As soon as any inferior canes appeared they were rubbed off so as to throw all the strength into the main canes and laterals. The second summer's growth was cut back very severely, the vigor of the vines determining the length. If very vigorous longer canes were left, the less vigorous vines being pruned more severely. The laterals when very stout were cut back to two buds, and on some three were left. Only one was left when the lateral was not vigorous. On some of the vines one of the main canes was cut back to two buds to make new wood for the fourth summer. The vines were allowed to bear the third season after transplanting. In the spring of the third season all inferior laterals were rubbed off and only the stout ones allowed to grow. The laterals were pinched back as soon as the fruit had set, and tied up to the wires.

"For the fourth summer the vines will be pruned so that new wood will be made for fruit, and enough buds will be left to bear a good crop of fruit.

"The new wood bears the fruit. This method of pruning is a combination of the renewal and spur systems. In the table on the description of the varieties the effect of sacking the bunches is also seen. Two pound paper sacks were pinned over the bunches to prolong the season and to protect them from birds, insects, and fungi."

The table gives a description of the grapes, time of ripening, color, size of berry, condition in and out of sacks, quality, size and shape of bunch, growth of vine, and prolificness.

The effect of sacking was very marked on the different varieties. All of the black varieties were perfect in sacks, except Telegraph and Black Eagle. The Telegraph and Black Eagle kept much better out of the sacks, the Black Eagle being perfect.

All of the white grapes rotted more or less in the sacks and it does not pay to sack any varieties of them, except

Niagara, Beauty and Maxatawney. It is not best to put too many of them in the sacks. Delaware and Wyoming Red all rotted in the sacks, while the other varieties of red grapes did well. Vergennes and Agawam kept better than the other red varieties.

Perkins, Ives and Norton's Virginia kept best, and can be kept in sacks from ten to thirty days after ripening.

The best black varieties for the prairie are Concord, Ives, Champion, Worden, Merrimac, Rogers No. 11, Wilder and Norton's Virginia. The Norton's Virginia makes a very vigorous growth, and is one of the most prolific varieties. It is no market grape, and is only good for wine. The other varieties are from medium to large—the Wilden, Merrimac and Rogers No. 11 are very large.

Of the white grapes Niagara, Goethe, Beauty and Prentiss do well.

Delaware, Lindley, Vergennes, Agawam and Wyoming Red are the best of the red varieties.

Perkins' is one of the best varieties that can be grown. The vines are healthy and very vigorous and prolific. They ripened as early as any of the varieties, and a much better price obtained for them. It is best not to let them ripen thoroughly. When ripe they are of a deep brown color and have a very decided foxy taste.

The Brighton, a red grape, was one of the best flavored varieties grown, but was neither vigorous nor prolific. It is a superior grape for the table.

The grapes can be grown successfully on the "red prairie" lands when properly cultivated and pruned. Too many plant the vines and neglect them, and think the failure to grow the grape is due to the soil and the varieties.

DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF VARIETIES.

VARIETIES.	TIME OF RIPENING	COLOR.	SIZE OF BERRY.	CONDITION IN BAGS.	CONDITION OUT OF BAGS
1 Agawam.....	July 18th.....	Red.....	Medium to large.	Excellent.	Excellent.....
2 Beauty.....	August 1st.....	Greenish yellow	Small	Rotted slightly.	Excellent.....
3 Berckman's.....	July 16th.....	Red.....	Small	Rotted Slightly.	Excellent.....
4 Brighton.....	July 16th.....	Red.....	Medium	Rotted Slightly.	Good.....
5 Champion.....	July 22nd.....	Black.....	Large	Excellent.....	Excellent.....
6 Concord.....	July 20th.....	Black.....	Large	Good.....	Excellent.....
7 Delaware.....	July 15th.....	Red.....	Small	Rot badly.	Excellent.....
8 Goethe.....	August 16th.....	Reddish green.	Large	Very good.	Excellent.....
9 Grein's Golden.....	August 10th.....	Greenish yellow	Small	Rot badly.	Rot slightly
10 Hartford.....	July 12th.....	Black.....	Medium	Rot badly.	Rot badly
11 Lady Washington.....	August 8th.....	Yellowish white	Medium	Excellent.	Rotted slightly.
12 Lindley.....	July 22nd.....	Red.....	Large	Very good.	Rotted badly.
13 Ives.....	July 25th.....	Black.....	Medium	Excellent.	Excellent.....
14 Irving.....	July 24th.....	White.....	Large	Rotted very badly.	Excellent.....
15 Mason's Renting.....	August 8th.....	Greenish yellow	Small	Rotted badly.	Rotted badly.
16 Maxatawney.....	July 28th.....	Pale yellow.....	Small	Good.....	Very good.
17 Moore's Early.....	July 8th.....	Black.....	Large	Excellent.	Excellent.....
18 Merrimac.....	July 18th.....	Black.....	Very large	Excellent.	Rotted slightly
19 Niagara.....	July 12th.....	White.....	Small	Rotted slightly.	Excellent.....
20 Norton's Virginia.....	August 12th.....	Black.....	Very large.	Excellent.	Rotted slightly
21 Prentiss.....	July 20th.....	White.....	Small	Rotted badly.	Rotted slightly
22 Telegraph.....	July 15th.....	Black.....	Medium	Rotted badly.	Rotted slightly
23 Triumph.....	July 24th.....	White.....	Small	Rotted very badly.	Rotted slightly
24 Pocklington.....	July 24th.....	White.....	Medium	Rotted very badly.	Rotted very badly.
25 Pearl.....	August 18th.....	Yellow.....	Large	All rotted.	Rotted very badly.
26 Rogers' No. 11.....	August 10th.....	Yellowish.....	Medium	Excellent.	Rotted badly.
27 Vergennes.....	July 16th.....	Black.....	Large	Excellent.	Excellent.....
28 Wilder.....	July 18th.....	Red.....	Very large	Excellent.	Rotted badly.
29 Worden.....	July 21st.....	Black.....	Large	Excellent.	Excellent.....
30 Wyoming Red.....	July 30th.....	Black.....	Medium.	Rotted badly.	Excellent.....
31 Black Eagle.....	August 12th.....	Black.....	Large	Rotted badly.	Excellent.....

DESCRIPTION AND CLASSIFICATION OF VARIETIES—CONTINUED.

VARIETIES.	QUALITY.	SIZE AND SHAPE OF BUNCHES.	GROWTH OF VINE.	PROLIFICNESS.
1 Agawam.....	Good.....	Small, loose.....	Not vigorous.....	Not prolific.
2 Beauty.....	Good.....	Small, compact.....	Vigorous.....	Not prolific.
3 Berckman's.....	Very good.....	Small, compact.....	Vigorous.....	Not prolific.
4 Brighton.....	Best.....	Large, compact, shouldered	Not vigorous.....	Not prolific.
5 Champion.....	Good.....	Large, compact, shouldered	Vigorous.....	Very prolific.
6 Concord.....	Good.....	Large, compact, shouldered	Very vigorous.....	Very prolific.
7 Delaware.....	Best.....	Small, compact, shouldered	Not vigorous.....	Very prolific.
8 Goethe.....	Very good.....	Medium, loose.....	Vigorous.....	Prolific.
9 Grein's Golden.....	Good.....	Small, compact.....	Not vigorous.....	Prolific.
10 Hartford.....	Good.....	Large, compact.....	Vigorous.....	Prolific.
11 Lady Washington.....	Very good.....	Large, compact, shouldered.	Not vigorous.....	Prolific.
12 Lindley.....	Best.....	Large, loose.....	Vigorous.....	Prolific.
13 Ives.....	Good.....	Medium, compact.....	Very vigorous.....	Very Prolific.
14 Irving.....	Very good.....	Large, compact.....	Very vigorous.....	Not prolific.
15 Mason's Renting.....	Good.....	Small, compact.....	Vigorous.....	Prolific.
16 Maxatawney.....	Very good.....	Small, loose.....	Not vigorous.....	Not prolific.
17 Moore's Early.....	Good.....	Large, compact.....	Not vigorous.....	Prolific.
18 Merrimac.....	Good.....	Medium, loose.....	Very vigorous.....	Prolific.
19 Niagara.....	Very good.....	Very large, compact.....	Very vigorous.....	Very Prolific.
20 Norton's Virginia.....	Good.....	Large, compact, shouldered	Very vigorous.....	Not prolific.
21 Prentiss.....	Very good.....	Small, compact.....	Vigorous.....	Prolific.
22 Telegraph.....	Good.....	Medium, very compact.....	Not vigorous.....	Prolific.
23 Triumph.....	Good.....	Large, compact.....	Not vigorous.....	Prolific.
24 Pocklington.....	Good.....	Large, very compact.....	Very vigorous.....	Prolific.
25 Pearl.....	Good.....	Small, compact.....	Very vigorous.....	Not prolific.
26 Rogers' No. 11.....	Good.....	Small, loose.....	Vigorous.....	Prolific.
27 Vergennes.....	Very good.....	Large, loose.....	Very vigorous.....	Prolific.
28 Wilder.....	Very good.....	Large, loose.....	Very vigorous.....	Not prolific.
29 Worden.....	Good.....	Large, compact, shouldered.	Vigorous.....	Prolific.
30 Wyoming Red.....	Very good.....	Medium, compact, shouldered.	Very vigorous.....	Very Prolific.
31 Black Eagle.....	Very good.....	Large, compact, shouldered.	Not vigorous.....	Very Prolific.

STRAWBERRIES.

December 14th, '88, twenty-five varieties of strawberries were planted on well manured "shelly land." 24 plants of each variety.

The first two seasons the vines were cultivated to single crowns and the third to matted rows. After the second season's crop had been gathered the runners were trained to make matted rows.

Gandy, Champion of Kentucky, No. 1001, Sharpless and Wilson Albany, made a very vigorous growth and stood the summer's heat well.

Lida and Haverland Seedling made a vigorous growth and stood the summer's heat well.

Gandy, Wilson, Albany, and Sharpless were very prolific, and No. 1001 and Haverland's Seedling were prolific.

Niagara, Superb and Crystal City were not vigorous but were very prolific.

The other varieties, Daniel Boone, Old Iron Clad, Boyden, James Vick, Manchester, Cumberland Triumph, May King, Primus, Jewell, Jucunda, Crescent, President Lincoln Vineland Seedling, Monmouth, Parry and Wonderful, were neither vigorous nor prolific.

It is best to cultivate the berries in matted rows to keep a good stand. The hot sun in summer kills the single crowns more easily than when grown in a mass. The berries are smaller, but in a much larger quantity, and the flavor is as good.

The strawberry is not well adapted to the canebrake lands and can never be grown on a larger scale as a market crop. On the "red prairie lands" and the light prairie lands it grows moderately well, but never reaches the perfection that it does on the sandy loam and light clay soils. It is a costly crop even when grown on a small scale in the prairies.

We have found it best to plant in rows three feet apart when grown to matted rows, to facilitate cultivation, and on a slight bed or ridge. The land being so tenacious and

impervious to water the ridge helps to drain it in winter and spring.

The beds were always kept clear of grass and weeds by shallow cultivation. Late in the fall the plants received a top dressing of cotton seed meal and cotton seed hull ashes which was worked in with a hoe, and early in the spring they received similar treatment.

Sharpless, Wilson Albany, Gandy, Champion of Kentucky, and No. 1001, were the most promising and can be recommended for the canebrake, in the order named, for family use.

RASPBERRIES.

In 1888, twelve varieties of raspberries were planted and in 1890 six of the standard varieties that had succeeded in Auburn were put out.

All of the varieties started off well and grew until the middle of the summer, when all but the Cuthbert, Golden, Queen, Turner, and Tyler died.

The second season the Golden Queen died and the fruit bearing canes of the Cuthbert, Turner, and Tyler would blossom and die before the fruit would ripen.

From two hundred plants of Cuthbert, Golden Queen, Turner and Tyler that were planted, not one pint of berries has ever been gathered.

They were planted on "shelly land" that had been well manured and prepared and had been cultivated as a garden for several years.

Like the strawberry, they grow better on the "red prairie," and "light prairie" lands. Some fine berries have been grown on such lands, but not in large quantities. They can not be successfully cultivated as a market crop.

Tyler, Gregg, Cuthbert, Turner, and Golden Queen have grown fairly well on the red prairie lands in some localities, and can be recommended for trial for family use.

The canes makes a remarkable growth and should receive very severe pinching to make them have a stout, stocky growth. Very early in spring cut away the old, dead canes and cut back the new canes to the required height. Large

and stout canes can be left as high as two and a half or four feet. Pinching back the main stem and laterals in the summer saves a great deal of winter pruning. Too many young canes weaken the growth and it is best to thin them out.

RASPBERRIES

In 1888 twelve varieties of raspberries were planted and in 1890 six of the standard varieties that had succeeded in Auburn were put out. All of the varieties started off well and grew until the middle of the summer, when all but the Cutbert, Golden Queen, Turner, and Tyler died. The second season the Golden Queen died and the fruit bearing canes of the Cutbert, Turner, and Tyler would blossom and die before the fruit would ripen. From two hundred plants of Cutbert, Golden Queen, Turner and Tyler that were planted, not one plant of berries has ever been gathered. They were planted on "shelly land" that had been well manured and prepared and had been cultivated as a garden for several years. Like the strawberry, they grow better on the "red prairie" and "light prairie" lands. Some fine berries have been grown on such lands, but not in large quantities. They can not be successfully cultivated as a market crop. Tyler, Great Cutbert, Turner, and Golden Queen have grown fairly well on the red prairie lands in some localities, and can be recommended for trial for family use. The canes make a remarkable growth and should receive very severe pinching to make them have a stout stocky growth. Very early in spring cut away the old, dead canes and cut back the new canes to the required height. Large