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This campaign of publicity for community upbuilding has been made possible by the advertisements placed on these pages by our public-spirited business men—men whose untiring efforts have builded our present recognized prosperity and who are ever striving for greater and yet greater progress as the years go by.

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## THE PLACE FOR GRAPES IN SALEM DISTRICT, BY THE COLLEGE EXPERT

Prof. Schuster, Associate Professor of Pomology at the Oregon Agricultural College, Gives a Very Complete Outline of the Methods and the Varieties That Will Be Apt to Prove Successful in This Section—The Grape Has a Definite Place in the Home Orchard

Editor Statesman:—Grapes are among the easiest and most satisfactory fruits grown for home use, but unfortunately about the last one to be considered by the majority of people. The grape has a definite place in every home orchard, where the location is such that grapes will thrive, and should be included in the list of fruits when any one is planting a home orchard.

More emphasis will be laid on the use of the grape in the home orchard than for commercial purposes. Except for rather limited acreage in a few local places, grape growing in the Willamette valley should not be entered into very extensively. A small patch of grapes where the fruit is handled properly will, near many of the valley towns, return good profit, but any large increase in acreage will soon swamp the market and break the price. The shipping of grapes, except for very short distances, will hardly prove satisfactory. California can produce grapes so cheaply that where any great shipping expense enters in, the competition will be too great for the local grapes.

For best results, deep, well drained, friable soil is desirable. Grapes are deep rooted, so a soil 4 to 6 feet deep or deeper is satisfactory. The lower soil need not be of the same character as the upper soil, but of a type through which the grape roots can readily penetrate. With a deep soil is associated good drainage, as a high water table renders the soil shallow, for the roots will not grow through the standing water. Seepage of an extensive character is just as detrimental as is the high water table.

While the soil should be of a character that holds moisture well throughout the season, it should not be one that is at all waterlogged. At times artificial drainage for the home planting will pay, but in view of the large amount of land naturally well drained, it would hardly seem advisable to drain land for commercial planting. Where good air drainage is secured, good soil drainage is usually to be found, though many exceptions are to be noted.

Medium Fertility Satisfactory. The very richest soils are not necessary for grapes. Soils with medium fertility, deep and well-drained, prove satisfactory. Of course, soils can be too poor for the best growth of grapes. The exact kind of soil is not a determining factor in most cases, provided it meets the above requirements.

A fact often of more importance to growing of grapes than fertility of the soil is one of the moisture content in the soil. In order, in many cases, to maintain the moisture where it should be it is necessary to keep the soil fairly well filled with humus, and this in most cases necessitates manuring or the growth of cover crops. If, with the use of these materials, the soil is kept in good condition, so far as the humus content is concerned, the plant food content of the soil will generally be taken care of. Moisture is more apt to be a limiting factor in more soils than fertility, so that if the moisture content is kept up by the use of cover crops or manure, the soil fertility itself will be handled.

**American Grape Best**

The Willamette valley is pretty closely limited to the growing of American grapes. These varieties will grow and mature fruit in the cool climate of this valley, while most of the European varieties will not thrive with the exception of one or two of the very earliest. The European grape demands a long growing season with the maximum heat and sunshine. Many of the varieties commonly grown in California fail to mature under Oregon conditions, many of them not even showing any indication of sugar by the time the fall rains begin, or the frost catches them.

**The Best Varieties**

Of the long list of American grapes to choose from, the Campbell's Early is undoubtedly the best for both commercial and home use. This is the best early grape we have, and, due to its earliness, it will mature well where the Concord, which is somewhat later, will fail to mature properly. Although the Concord is one of the most popular varieties in the eastern part of the United States, it has not been as successful in Oregon as the Campbell's Early. It can be used as a later grape. The Campbell's Early is a good grape for handling on the market, as it has a relatively tough skin, and though considered by some not quite so high in flavor as other varieties it is a very satisfactory grape. It can be picked at the regular time and still keep as long as the Concord or some of the later varieties.

The variety advertised extensively as the Island Belle is without question the Campbell's Early, introduced under the name of Island Belle.

A better quality grape for home use is the Worden. This can hardly be recommended for commercial planting, as the berry is so tender that any handling at all will break the berry, pulling the skin open, making it unsatisfactory for commercial purposes. It is just a little later than the Campbell's Early. Due to the tender skin, it will not stand adverse seasonal conditions, as frequently are met with in this section, being susceptible to injury from the rain.

For white grapes the Niagara is undoubtedly the best, but it has about the same ripening time as the Concord, making it a little later for many sections. Where well ripened, it has a most excellent flavor and really should be included in any of the home plantings.

For red grapes we have none that are satisfactory from a commercial standpoint, but a few that are very good for home use. The Delaware bears rather lightly, has small bunches of very small berries, but of excellent quality. The Agawam develops very poor bunches, but it bears heavily and has also good quality.

For those who desire the flavor of European grapes, the Sweetwater or Golden Chasselas is the most satisfactory in general. This is a white or green grape that matures about the same time as the Concord, or possibly a little later, but often fails to develop the quality that it should. In cool seasons, or when early fall rains come, it does not develop the sugar content desired. In some of the more protected places we find varieties like the Muscat Hamburg or Rose of Peru doing very well, but these cannot be generally planted with the expectation of being successful in station grounds, the Chasselas Rose Royal and the Chasselas Rouse have proven nearly as successful in maturing a crop as the Golden Chasselas, but do not bear any way nearly as heavily.

**Wine Grapes Excluded**

The regular wine grapes and raisin grapes of California cannot be considered for this district, as they demand a long, warm season

for maturing the crop. Many of these varieties are under test at the experiment station, and most of them fall even to show any degree of maturity in the average season. In the season of 1922, when more varieties ripened than ever before, but very few of them attained the quality desired for these grapes, while most of them were never even ripened enough for picking from the vines.

**Planting of the Grapes**

Grapes are generally planted eight feet apart in the rows with eight feet between the rows. This gives sufficient distance for the development of the vine and affords ease in cultivation. The earlier grape vines can be planted in the fall or winter, the better they will be, as it will give the vines a chance to establish a root system during the winter season. Avoid planting late in the spring, as this does not give the vine a good chance to establish itself before the hot weather comes on. After the vines are set out, about the only thing necessary the first season is thorough, consistent cultivation to prevent the excessive loss of moisture from the soil.

**The Pruning**

At the beginning of the second season the general practice is to cut the vine back to two buds. The idea of it is to prevent the canes of the previous season bearing any fruit, but rather devoting the energies of the plant more or less to the establishing of a root system and growing a vigorous, healthy cane for the coming season. Although only one cane will be allowed to grow after this season, two are permitted the second season for the simple reason that one of them may be destroyed and this will not set the plant back a year in establishing the frame work.

At the beginning of the third season, the stronger and better cane is selected and cut at the height desired, which will be determined by the pruning system, which will be followed in the planting. All other canes or growths are removed, leaving the single cane to form the main stalk of the plant.

After the vines become mature, the annual pruning is a very drastic, heavy cutting, as over 90% of the previous season's wood is removed each pruning season. The best fruit and the finest bunches are given on the vines that are heavily pruned. More bunches might be produced on vines if more wood could be left, but the quality would be decidedly inferior, and it is doubtful if the total production would be any heavier.

The pruning of grapes is not at all difficult if care is taken in the selection of the wood to be left and the number of buds left. The bearing of the plant the coming season will be determined by the number of buds left on the vine. The average mature vine will need about 20 fruit buds. If the vine is weak, fewer buds can be left so that more strength will go into producing vigorous wood for the coming season.

On the other hand an overly vigorous vine should have more fruit buds left, thus tending to cut down on the cane growth, devoting more of the energy to the production of fruit. Probably with the grapes more than other fruit it is a question of the individual development and vigor of the vines when determining how much wood should be pruned away.

In selecting the number of buds or the buds to be left, it is generally considered that the first two buds on the cane are more or less apt to be sterile. They will not be entirely so, but the buds farther out will bear a larger number of fruit clusters to the bud than the first two. Omit these in the counting of the buds in each cane. If, for instance, you are leaving six to eight fruit buds to a cane, it will mean the total number will be eight to ten.

As the tendency of the vine is to extend the growth each year, bear-

ing only the one year on each year's growth, if let grow naturally the bearing wood would soon be a long way from the main stalk. From the older wood each year there will be found coming up young, vigorous canes. These are usually sterile, but are used in renewing the canes, bringing the fruiting wood back. At the time of pruning these are cut to one or two buds, forming renewal spurs. The coming season, these spurs will produce good, vigorous fruiting wood, which can be used in the following season for the development of the fruiting wood close to the main stalk.

**Systems of Training**

Grapes have usually been trained to the four armed Kniffen system. The Kniffen system is more commonly used on American grapes than any other system of training grapes. The trellis is nothing but a two-wire berry trellis. In this the cane or main shoot is tied to the upper wire. Running from the cane each way on each wire will be left one cane or arm. The total number of buds desired to leave for the individual vine is distributed evenly over the four arms.

Aside from the four armed Kniffen system, the Munson system gives excellent success. This is a three-wire system in which the lower wire is placed 3 1/2 to 4 feet from the ground with the two upper wires one foot high, and at the outer edge of an 18 inch cross piece. The main stalk is trained to the lower wire, and then two to four canes are trained along this lower wire. As the buds break and the new shoots develop, they will be upright for a short time, but gradually droop over, and in this way lay over the two upper wires. This system of training is more expensive to establish in the first place, but is more easily handled during picking. The bunches all hang free and are not entwined by the growing canes or the tendrils of the vines. Also, it allows more circulation of the air, tending to reduce the susceptibility to disease.

**The General Care**

The general care of the grape vines is the same as for any other fruit tree. Thorough, consistent cultivation is advisable for the best results. However, it is noticeable at times to what degree the grape vines can be neglected and still bear a certain amount of fruit.

From observation during the last few seasons it would seem that a few remarks about the harvesting of grapes would not come amiss.

Grapes do not develop their full quality or flavor when they first change color. With a grape like Campbell's Early, the quality is not developed for some time after it turns dark. If picked in the green stage, it does not have a pleasant flavor and will certainly not appeal to the customer. If left until fully developed, the quality is sure to be excellent and the fruit will keep better than when picked green.

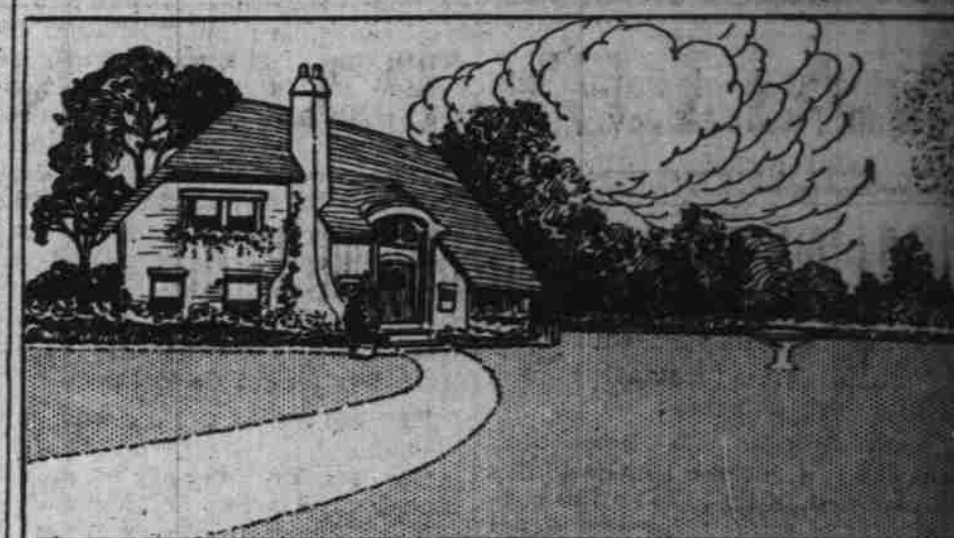
In picking the grapes use clipper or knives to cut off the bunches. Handle the bunches as little as possible in order to leave the bloom on the berries. If picking during the heat of the day, better success will be had in avoiding the shelling of the berries from the bunches. The stalks of the clusters will be more or less wilted at that time while the grapes will be dry in the bunch.

Grapes picked moist will soon develop decay.

—C. E. SCHUSTER.  
Corvallis, Oregon,  
April 22, 1924.

(Prof. Schuster is associate professor of pomology at the Oregon Agricultural college. No one is better authority.—Ed.)

Our insignificant opinion is that the third party won't get any scandalous contributions from big business.



**Lawn Maintenance**

Sowing lawn seed is only a start toward securing a velvety green lawn. Its maintenance is even more important for it is a subject demanding constant care and attention. The important items in order are rolling, mowing, weeding, watering, and fertilizing, and the last named is the start and also last on the program.

The occasional application of manure to a lawn need interfere in nowise with its enjoyment with the development of modern commercial fertilizers. It is not considered advisable nowadays to spread the coating of farmyard manure over the lawn which made it an eyesore for half the year and which invariably started a great crop of weeds and often introduced the pest of plantain and dock into the lawn which it took many seasons to eradicate.

Dressings of pulverized sheep manure or shredded cow manure fill the bill and are odorless, devoid of weed seed, quickly wash down among the roots of the grass and are not unsightly. Basic slag broadcasted in the fall, a slow working potash fertilizer, is effective. Lime for soils inclined to be acid and as an alternative for commercial fertilizers which applied too steadily are likely to induce an acid condition, and nitrate of soda sprinkled lightly at intervals of two weeks or more are all excellent to keep the grass growing vigorously.

Special lawn fertilizers are handled by every reputable seed house which can be applied from time to time with assurance that they will give the soil proper food that it needs. Turf usually needs some renovating in the spring, along with the regular housecleaning. The quickest way to repair bad patches is to put in new sod but this usually results in a lumpy appearance for some time. New seed is the best and this seed can be sown at any time until hot weather sets in in earnest. White clover is useful for this purpose. As the dead spots probably lack nourishment, fertilizer should be sown liberally with the fresh seed and rolled in. Don't try to do any renovating in the seed line on a windy day. The seed usually flies everywhere except the right spot. Choose a still day.

## HEAD LETTUCE INDUSTRY IS BEING DEVELOPED IN THE SALEM DISTRICT

Twenty Cars Will Be Ready to Begin Shipments Within a Few Weeks—The Asparagus Industry Will Also Be Tried Out By the Same Group, With a View to Very Extensive Operations

Roy K. Fukuda, as most of the readers of the Slogan pages of The Statesman know, is the pioneer of the celery industry of the Lahish Meadows district, a few miles north of Salem, in the Chemawa section. The celery industry has grown there until the shipments last year were about 200 cars, and they will be at least 250 cars this year, from present prospects.

Are Growing Lettuce Under the leadership of Mr. Fukuda, the same group of farmers began a few years ago experimenting with head lettuce on the beavermud lands there. They were encouraged to such an extent that they have now out acreage sufficient to furnish about 20 cars, which will begin to go to market in three or four weeks.

That would be considered more than an experiment by most people, but Mr. Fukuda calls it an experiment, though he seems rather sanguine of its success.

If head lettuce can be produced in quantities on that kind of land, there are prospects of the development of an industry of gigantic proportions.

Mr. Fukuda has satisfied himself that it may be done; that he

(Continued on page 10)

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