

Correspondence.

Editor *Deseret News*, Sir:—Ever feeling anxious for the liberation of the vast wealth locked up in the air, soil and water of our Territory, I venture, in my humble way, to address a few letters to our people upon the culture of the grape. If you consider these letters sufficiently interesting and instructive, by giving them a place in your columns you will much oblige a lover of progress.

It may be considered that they come out of season; not so, the fall is the time to secure plants, either for fall planting, or heeling in for early spring planting. The object of these letters is to attract the attention of the people of Utah to a remunerative industry, which is sadly neglected in our Territory, and for which our soil and climate are most admirably fitted.

The California grape is not in many respects the grape for extensive vineyard culture in the Great Basin. It is too tender, and never ripens its fruit to the centre with us; and from it we never can make wine that will, by its merits, hold a prominent position in commerce. Wine can be made from the California grape grown in Utah by adding sugar or good spirits to improve the must, to keep it. Yet I consider that vine indispensible to us as a late garden variety. We need a grape that holds within itself, all the requisites of a good, spicy, generous red wine; and from which wine can be manufactured without any additions as easily as making cider from apples.

Much credit is due to the energy displayed by American pomologists for obtaining, from the great laboratory of nature, grapes that are fitted to an extensive area of North America, which embrace the great requisites of hardiness, earliness, vigor and superior excellence for wine, raisins and table use.

Messrs. Levi Richards, D. O. Calder, T. W. Ellerbeck, of Salt Lake City, and others have given much of their time, attention and means to the introduction of good varieties of native grapes into our Territory, and have done much in training the public taste for most excellent fruit, yet the taste should not be the only standard to judge by. A grape may not be par excellence to the taste, and yet possess such sterling qualities as to make its presence indispensible in a fine collection.

The values of Utah will yet flow with generous wine. It can be produced here from the best native grapes by millions of gallons annually. Tens of thousands of pounds of the finest of raisins can be produced annually in Utah with the sweet, rich flavor and aroma of those from the Muscat of Alexandria.

It is not my purpose to bore your readers with an elaborate article to show them how much I know on this subject, neither shall I steal anybody's thunder; but I will recommend a few good grapes that are fitted to our climate and soil, and briefly describe them. I will also, in my simple way, describe the method of cultivation, pruning and training, necessary to secure the best results.

The following list does not embrace all of the good native grapes, but in it is embraced nearly all the leading excellencies of a very large class. Eumelan, Iona, Israelita, Delaware, Diana, and Concord.

I will now give, briefly, the characteristics of the above six varieties, which I obtain from the most reliable sources, and in which the utmost confidence may be placed.

Eumelan.—A black grape, bunch of large size, elegant form, and proper degree of compactness; berries of large size, with blue bloom and clear surface, adhering firmly to the bunches long after ripening. For the table it is meaty, uniform in texture and of tender melting flesh. It ripens evenly and perfectly all through; and as soon as the centre is at the circumference. Flavor, pure and refined, very sugary, rich and vinous. For making red wine it has no near competitor among American grapes. The wine is vigorous, hardy and productive in habit. Ripens earlier than the Hartford Prolific.

Iona. The vine is of the best habit, strong, vigorous and hardy, with large, short-jointed canes, and abundant, thick, fleshy, and enduring foliage, which remains until wood and fruit are fully ripened. Sets its fruit late, and matures early, avoiding late spring and early autumn frosts. The berries are large or very large, and the bunches very large, like the European grapes. In flavor it is rich, spicy, with a fine, delicate, muscatel aroma added to its sugary and refreshing quality, making it one of the most delightful and refreshing grapes. For late keeping it is equal to the best, not in the least disposed to rot, or lose its vinous spirit, but dries readily to the most spirited of raisins, for which it is most admirably fitted, having only a few very small seeds. The berries are of a wine color, the flesh is of a uniform consistence quite to the center, and as sweet at the centre as near the skin. In quality and appearance it resembles the Red Fontignan. Ripens fully two weeks before the Israelita.

Israelita. A black grape, ripening one week before the Iona, is the earliest black grape that is large, excellent, healthy and hardy. When ripe it has no acidity or toughness remaining, being exceedingly sweet, rich and good throughout its entire substance, and exceedingly productive. It is called the "American Hamburg," the berries being large, globular and very dark, adhering to the peduncle firmly and remaining a bunch when dried to raisins.

Delaware. One of the very best, earliest, and hardest of American grapes. Its character is pretty well known in Utah.

Diana. Seedling from the Catawba. Vine much more hardy than the parent, and the fruit ripens two weeks earlier, with purer, richer, and even more spirited flavor. Its bunches are large and compact. The berries are often very large; it is inclined to overbear, which, when permitted, renders its berries smaller than the Catawba. The fruit ripens very early and becomes very good, but with some degree of the foxy odor of its parent. It is one of the indispensible varieties, ranking next to the Delaware and Iona in value, either as a grape for the table or for wine.

Concord. A very vigorous and

healthy grower, and bears abundantly ripens ten days before the Israelita, and is much less disposed to mildew than that variety. Its flavor is very sweet, making it a valuable market grape. It will endure more unfair treatment and continue to produce very good crops longer than any other grape of tolerable quality.

These six valuable varieties are really all the Utah cultivators want, to give them fresh fruit for the market and for the table, raisins for their cakes and pies, and for commerce, wine to drink and to sell, and these they may have in overflowing abundance. These plants will tap the wine fountains of life, strength and stomachic health. They will flourish and bear abundant crops in all our settlements from Bear Lake in the north to the Muddy in the south.

In my next letter, I will treat upon the proper choice of plants to secure vigorous, strong-constituted vines. This is one of the chief elements of success. I would not advise extensive purchases of the above highly recommended varieties until properly tested in Utah; although I consider their reported character to be such as to justify a limited expenditure, and a thorough trial.

Respectfully,
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