

# ORCHARD AND GARDEN

## MUSCADINE GRAPES

**Possibilities of Profit on Vineyards Which Can Be Established Over a Wide Area in the Southeast**

MUSCADINE grapes can be grown successfully over a very large area in the southern and southeastern portions of the United States, according to specialists of the United States Department of Agriculture.

In Farmers' Bulletin No. 709, a new publication dealing with this subject, it is stated that there are at least 250,000,000 acres of land along the southeastern Atlantic coast and the Gulf coast which are well adapted to the culture of these grapes, and a large percentage of which is at present untilled. It is, in fact, only during the last ten years that the production of muscadine grapes, which are especially suited to this territory, has assumed commercial importance.

Muscadine grapes are used chiefly for wine making, but when carefully packed and handled there is a considerable demand for them as table grapes. They also make excellent jellies, preserves, catsups, etc. The Scuppernon, a light-colored variety, and the Eden, Flowers, James, Memory and Thomas, dark-colored varieties, are the only varieties listed in catalogs and grown in a commercial way.

Muscadine grapes can be successfully grown wherever cotton thrives, and can be grown on almost any of

inter-cropping, commercial fertilizers should be used to give best results with muscadine grapes. It is also considered good practice to mulch young vines with stable manure. Nitrogenous fertilizers applied to young vines induce them to make a robust growth and to bear a profitable crop the third year, results which, under ordinary conditions, would not have been attained before the fourth year. After the vines have reached bearing age, with proper culture and inter-cropping, they will need but little nitrogen to keep them thrifty, but will require more phosphoric acid and potash.

All the leading fruiting varieties of muscadine grapes have been proved to be self-sterile and set no fruit unless their blossoms are pollinated with the fertile pollen of male vines. This cross-pollination is brought about by insects. Therefore it is necessary to plant male vines here and there in the vineyard, one such vine to every eight or ten fruiting vines being recommended. Investigations have shown that under ordinary circumstances only 7 to 10 per cent of the Muscadine buds normally produce ripe berries, while with perfect pollination 20 to 30 per cent will bear fruit. This is equivalent to an increased yield of approximately 200 to 300 per cent.

Until recently it was a common belief that muscadine vines could not be pruned without killing them. This has been shown to be a mistake, but

tomatoes, cabbage, cauliflower, and brussel sprouts.

If you are in doubt as to the best varieties of fruit trees to purchase or where to secure them, write the horticultural department of your state agricultural college for the information.

It is a lamentable fact that the great bulk of our produce comes on the market poorly packed and graded. The producer must practice better methods of grading and packing if the best prices are to be had for either fruits or vegetables.

Observe the following quotation from a Northwestern journal: "Thousands of bushels of Irish potatoes are shipped into the South every year." Let us, by planting large crops of fall potatoes, cause this statement to be modified so as to read, "Southern markets being supplied with home-grown potatoes, Northwestern potato growers are compelled to dispose of their crop elsewhere."

It is seldom that canned vegetables of good quality fail to command a good price. In case you have not planted vegetables in sufficient quantity so as to have a surplus to can, it is a good time now to make up the deficiency. Snap beans, corn, beets, tomatoes and other vegetables may yet be planted for canning in the late summer.

A window box is very attractive and satisfactory where space is limited or where fowls destroy flower beds. Make the box a foot wide, eight inches deep, and in length to suit the location. Fill with rich soil and set petunia, geraniums, salvia, impatiens or other flowering plants with a few tall nasturtiums to drop over the front edge.

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### Prepare for Turnips Now

YOU should select a rich plat of ground for your turnip patch and break now—not being afraid of getting too deep. Much of the turnip is water, and if the ground is not well broken, so it will be able to hold moisture, your turnip crop will suffer accordingly.

No matter how rich the land you select, it will need a liberal application of manure. Place this manure on the land before breaking and it will give the best results. After your manure has been turned under the land will need frequent workings—at least after each rain—until time to sow the seed. I always prefer to work the land into good condition as soon as it has been broken, and then to give it a light harrowing after each rain. This harrowing conserves the moisture and supplies the water that is needed by the turnips.

As to the time of seeding, many people differ. As for myself, I always prefer to sow the seed the latter part of August or the first of September—and at least not later than the middle of September for fall turnips. The seed may be covered by "brushing in" (a method which is familiar to most readers), or they may be put in with a weeder. In any case the implement used should be exceedingly light, as seed covered deeply will not have vitality enough to push to the surface of the ground.

P. T. H.

### THE ONE HE WANTED

"How much was those collars, please?" asked the customer.  
"Two for a quarter was the answer."  
"Yes, and how much for your?"  
"Fifteen cents," said the salesman.  
"All right," was the reply. "Gig me the odder vun."

### A MIRACLE RE-ENACTED

Two clergymen, one evidently highly educated and the other not so learned, were discussing the value of education.  
"I suppose," said the latter, "you have gone through college?"  
"Yes, I have," was the modest answer.  
"Well," declared he of little education, "I am thankful that the Lord opened my mouth without an education."  
"Yes?" courteously assented the other. "A similar thing, we are told, happened in Baalam's time."—Exchange.

## JULY JOBS FOR BUSY FARMERS

WHEN laying by corn, sow cowpeas thickly. Sow bur clover in the Bermuda pasture.

Plant second crop of the following vegetables: Bountiful bunch beans, garden peas, sugar corn, Lookout Mountain potatoes, and pickling cucumbers.

Now is the time to bud peaches.

Prepare ground well and transplant celery.

Tomato plants will live and bear fruit all summer if leaves are kept covered with Bordeaux mixture.

Clean the bins and cribs for the new crop of wheat and corn.

Mound dirt around bottom of peach trees to keep out borers.

A dipping vat should be provided to protect hogs and calves from lice.

—Clemson Bulletin.

the tillable soils along the Atlantic coast from the James River to Florida and from Florida along the Gulf coast to Texas, their natural habitat extending from along the sea well into the mountains. They also succeed along the Mississippi River as far north as southeastern Missouri and the Tennessee River. The best results are obtained on sandy loam soils that are well drained and contain a fair amount of fertility and organic matter.

### Preparing the Land

IT IS important that the subsoil be well drained. If muscadines are to be planted on new land, the land should be well prepared and some annual crop requiring cultivation be grown on it at least one season.

The first two seasons after planting, hoed crops, such as melons, peanuts, cotton or tobacco, may be grown between the vines. After this, a leguminous crop, such as cowpeas and soy beans in the summer, and vetch, bur clover or crimson clover in the winter, may be grown to regulate the soil moisture supply and fertility.

If the vines are properly supported it will do no harm to graze cows, sheep, or hogs on the winter cover crop in the vineyard in early spring before the vine growth starts. After the second season the winter cover crops should be plowed under in the spring as soon as possible after grazing, cutting for hay or harvesting for seed, followed with cultivation through the early part of the summer.

In addition to good cultivation and

these are still persons who advocate the growing of vines without pruning. The safest plan, according to knowledge now available, is to follow moderate pruning.

In training the vines, two systems are employed, (1) the horizontal, or overhead system, by which the growth is spread on an overhead canopy about seven feet above the ground and supported by posts; and (2) the upright, or vertical system, in which the growth is spread over a vertical trellis. Both have their advantages.

Muscadine grapes shatter readily from the stem. When the fruit is intended for wineries it is harvested by jarring the berries from the vines on to large canvas sheets. Fruit for table use should be hand-picked. By careful hand-picking, the fruit of some varieties can be secured in clusters and sells for a higher price upon the market.


The muscadine grapes are very productive and up to the present time remunerative prices have been secured for the fruit.

### Orchard and Garden Work This Week and Next

LOOK into the matter of using the parcel post to ship fresh fruits and vegetables to your city neighbor.

Cut back geraniums severely after they have become tall and scraggy and they will take on new life, producing flowers in greater abundance.

A few vegetables that must be planted by the first of July in order to become a part of the fall garden:



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