

SAMPSON BLUES TO BE MADE LARGER?

Famous Product May Be Developed Up To Size of Concord Grapes

By Stan H. Bestler
The United States Government is undertaking the job of making the huckleberry a civilized and domestic crop, and if it succeeds in doing this it will give to North Carolina a new source of income, and the country one of the finest food products that grows. Already the big blue has become famous as a Sampson county fruit, but only as Nature in the swamps provides the crop and then only in the wild condition that swamp culture provides. But the government is carrying on some experiments of selection and breeding of blue berries and has already produced some superior strains that promise to make the huckleberry a great addition to the fruit resources of those States that can make the berries.

It is announced from Washington that the blueberries as big as Concord grapes have been grown from government stocks and now the department of agriculture is recommending the cultivation of the berry in the established plantations just as dewberries are planted and cared for. Experiment farms are carried on by the government at a point in New Jersey and at another place near Washington. One of the farms raised 117 bushels an acre one season, which brought \$10 a bushel in New York, which is not a bad return for an acre of ground. The plants give a small crop and the second year after planting and increase steadily after that.

Native in North Carolina
The blueberry is native in North Carolina and reaches mighty near perfection in the swampy regions of this State. The crop ripens before the crop comes in the North, so a big crop of the right kind of fruit, raised so that it could be cultivated and harvested under conditions that would permit attention, would get the fruit off at a time when little competition from the later northern berries would be expected. The natural place to plant blueberries is in the swampy land that is somewhat acid, and where the foot fungus is found that helps to provide nitrogen for the plants somewhat as nitrogen is gathered for the leguminous plants by the nodules that grow on the roots. Land of this character is abundant in Eastern and Middle North Carolina, which indicates that the lower counties may possibly be making blueberries some of these days as abundantly as the Sandhills country is making peaches now, and with results equally as profitable. Nor nothing on earth beats the good old blue swamp huckleberry, and if the government has succeeded in growing these berries as big as Concord grapes, and can show where to get plant stocks that will produce the big variety the blueberry outlook is encouraging.

In all the swamps from the foot of the Piedmont hills to the coast the big blue huckleberries grow in abundance, and this fruit is free so far as is known from the ravages of insect pests. What may happen after the cultivation of the berry is undertaken may be uncertain, but the plant has few enemies in the section where it grows in a promising one to cultivate.

Get Rid of Wild Growth
The government plan is to clear suitable land, naturally where it is amply supplied with moisture all the season, and to cultivate a crop of something else before setting berry plants, the purpose being to get rid of wild growth and give the berries when they are set, the best chance to make the right kind of fruit. In using plants from the swamps they are best set about eight feet apart each way, as they will grow and fill the rows as they branch out. But it is recommended that rows be eight feet apart and the plants set four feet in the row, and later thinned out as they fill the space. Tillage is to be shallow, but frequent enough to keep down weeds and grass, and by hoeing and weeding around the plants so they may have full chance to grow. Fertilization is not advised in the ordinary sandy soil with a peaty character, as the berry is quite able to hustle for its living, and needs little help.

The government recommends to the man who would plant a blue berry orchard or vineyard or whatever it is to be called that he transplant from the swamps some of the best bushes he can find paying attention to size and color and flavor of the fruit, and try to breed up a good line of fruit on his own place. Or he can buy hybrid varieties of bushes from those who have already reached the point where they are making a business of raising this crop. The swamp plants are easy to multiply, either by cutting, or by dividing the shoots of the old plant, or by layering after the manner of propagating grape vines. If a good plant is found in the swamps intelligent and careful subdivision will result in fifty or a hundred new plants, so that it is not hard to increase the plantation once a few good bushes are established.

Gold Mine For Lowlands
The blueberry is such a good fruit, and so willing to grow on the acid land that is generally regarded as of no value for anything else that it looks as if the cultivation of the blueberry would prove a gold mine to

owners of the low lands of North Carolina if we would make a beginning in creating this industry as a commercial feature of North Carolina agriculture. It will ship as readily as dewberries, and as it takes little or no fertilizer, and land that is not wanted for anything else the demands of the fruit are not exacting. In the days when we are all looking for some ways to diversify agriculture in the state, and when specializing in farming is becoming more of a necessity for the farmer who wants to get ahead substantially, each community that has swamp lands suitable for its cultivation might try out a huckleberry experiment.

For any who want to look into the matter the government has been trying out the matter, and will be glad to furnish information.

Notice

Under the power of sale contained in a deed of Trust executed by G. H. Godwin and wife, Stella Godwin, on the 29th day of October 1918 to the undersigned trustee, which Deed of Trust is duly recorded in Harnett county in Book D. of T. at page 110, default of the bonds secured thereby and the owner of the said bonds having demanded that said Deed of Trust be foreclosed the undersigned will expose to sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the court house door in Lillington, Harnett county, North Carolina at 12:00 o'clock M. on Friday January 20th, 1922 the following described lands:

A certain tract of land lying and being in Harnett county, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:
Beginning at a pine stump by another pine stump with 1 post oak, 1 sweet gum, 1 hickory and 1 dogwood pointers, supposed to be Stephen's corner and runs due South with the line of No. 2 and the 165 acre tract 32.85 chains to a stake with 1 hickory and five black jack pointers; thence South 85 1-2 E. 24.70 chains to a stake with 1 black jack and 3 pine pointers, S. M. Andrews; corner near a field; thence N. 3 3-4 E. 45.65 chains to a low stake with 2 pine, 1

black jack and 2 post oak pointers; another of S. M. Andrews; thence N. 85 3-4 W. 31.75 chains to a stake with 2 small post oak, 2 small hickory and 1 pine pointer, another of S. M. Andrews; corner; thence S. 24 3-4 W. 14.20 chains to the beginning containing 104 1-2 acres.

This December 20th, 1921.
E. L. GODWIN, Trustee.
Dec. 23 30 Jan 6 13.

Transfers of Real Estate
Susan F. Bowden to J. R. Mitchell, 110 acres in Grove, \$800.
Maude C. Layton to J. G. Layton, lot in Angier, \$3,000.

J. F. Batts to Hiram Baggett, lot in Lillington, \$10 and other consideration.

W. K. Phillips to I. M. Wallace, two acres in Neills Creek, \$4,640.

Africa Harrington to M. B. O'Quinn, 16 1-2 acres in Upper Little River, \$247.

C. M. Howard to M. B. O'Quinn, 7 1-2 acres in Upper Little River, \$700.

T. J. Thomas et al to M. B. O'Quinn, 19 acres in Upper Little River \$100.

A. B. Godwin to E. T. Parker, lot in Dunn, \$1,500.

Erwin Cotton Mills to W. H. Allen, two lots in Averaboro, \$1,500.

W. H. Allen to Smith & McKay, two lots in Averaboro, \$200 and other consideration.

Dr. C. R. Young, trustee, to N. A. Matthews, three lots in Angier for \$2,311.

F. T. Dupres, trustee, to Angier Bank and Trust Co., 55.30 acres in Black River, \$6,500.

B. F. Parrish, mortgagee, to J. Henry Parrish, 32 acres in Grove \$2,000.

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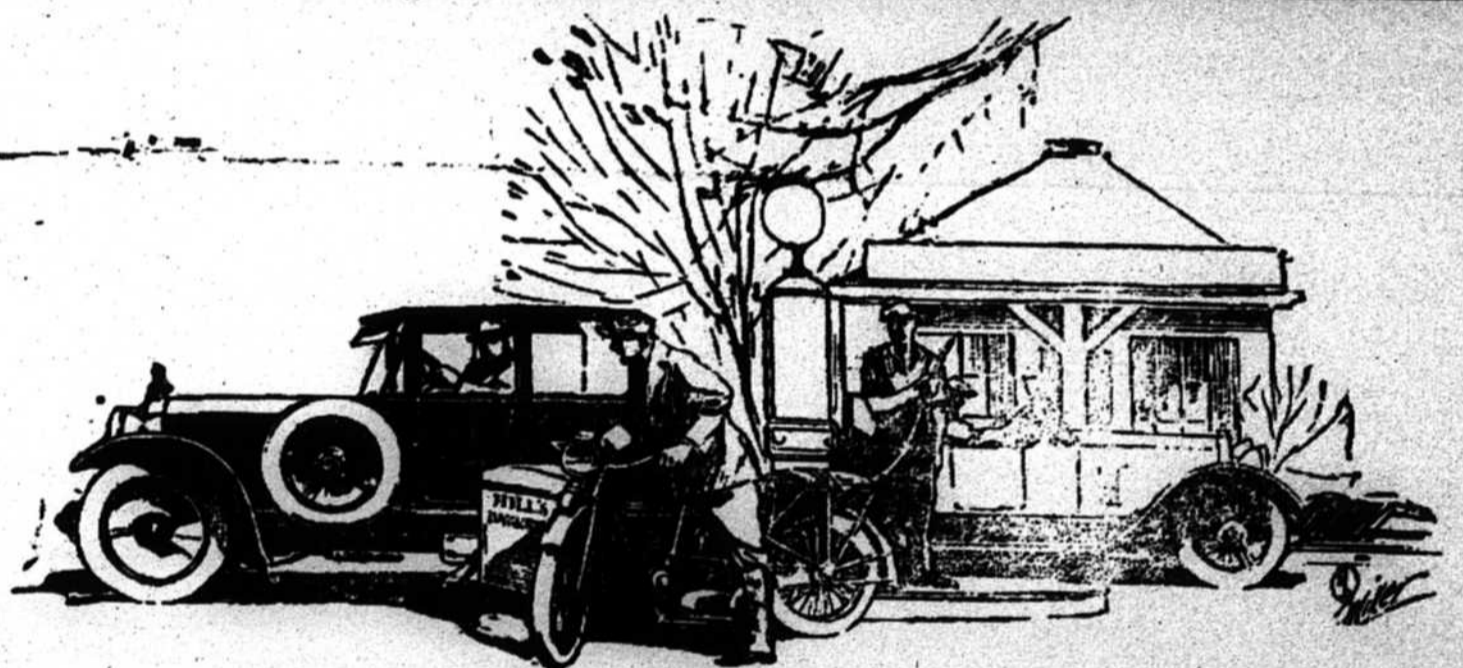
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