

GRAPE VARIETY SELECTION . . .

fungous diseases, but has to be protected from oidium, and downy mildew and black spot will also damage it in humid seasons.

The important points when table grape varieties are being selected are:—

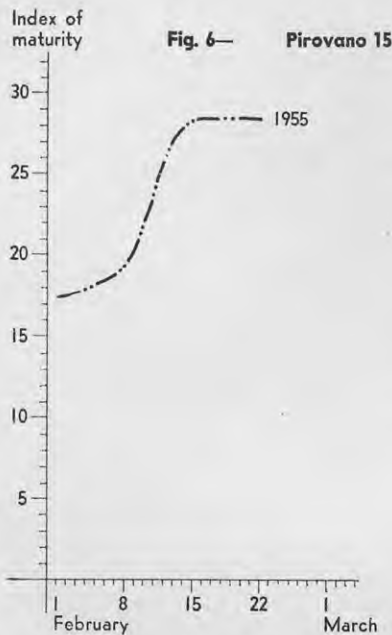
1. Their ripening period should suit the consumers' requirements. It is desirable to have grapes ripening from early February to late April; the very early and late grapes always command premium prices.

2. The grapes should reach the market in perfect condition. For this they must be sound when packed; the berries must have firm flesh and a tough and fairly thick skin which is still agreeable to eat.

3. They must have eye appeal. The bunches should be even in size and shape and loose and not compact, and the berries well formed. Colour is important: For some reason the New Zealand public prefers black grapes, probably because few others have been offered on the market. There are excellent golden, amber, and ruby grapes which could be gradually introduced. Attractively mixed packing often increases the eye appeal.

4. They should have a pleasant taste. Three different flavours are recognised among table grapes, plain sweet, muscat, and *Labrusca* flavour.

Chasselas and Palomino grapes, which have a very pleasant, plain sweet taste, were mentioned in the discussion on wine grapes. Recent introductions include the **Pirovano 15**. Though only recently brought to this country from South Africa, it already



shows great promise. In 1955 it started ripening by 1 February (Fig. 6), and on 7 February it was ready for sale. Pirovano 15, a well-shaped, medium-sized, purple-blue grape, was bred by Alberto Pirovano in Italy. Its pleasant, sweet flavour and good appearance make it a choice, early table grape overseas. At the moment there is not sufficient propagating wood on hand to release it to commercial growers, but it is hoped that in 2 years there will be not only sufficient cuttings but

also full data on its cultural requirements.

Another promising table variety is **Pearl of Csaba** (*Csabagyöngye*), a very early, golden-coloured, muscat table grape, bred in Hungary in the early 1900s. It ripens at the end of January. Investigations include its wine-making possibilities. A promising light-purple muscat grape is **I.P.24**, also the subject of present research work.

Among the *Labrusca* varieties the rose-tinted **Iona** merits attention, its flavour being not as coarse as that of Albany Surprise. A number of *Labrusca* table grapes were recently imported from the New York State Experimental Station and will be included in further investigations. These hardy grapes, partly resistant to diseases, will find a place in home gardens. They are also suitable where spraying cannot be regularly done or where growing conditions are somewhat difficult. Unfortunately their flavour never matches that of the *Vinifera* grapes.

At present a new experimental variety block is being established at Te Kauwhata, as well as smaller blocks in Hawke's Bay and at Henderson. Preliminary observations already indicate that selections from the varieties under observation will add to the number of good grapes which can be grown profitably in New Zealand for both the wine and dessert grape industries.

References

- P. Viala and V. Vermorel, "Ampelographie", vol. 3, page 69, Paris, 1902.
- A. G. Ferrold, "A Treatise on Viticulture", Stellenbosch, 1926.
- S. F. Anderson, "Outdoor Culture of the Grape-vine in New Zealand", "New Zealand Journal of Agriculture", vol. 14, pages 101 and 278, 1917.
- J. C. Woodfin, "Grape-vines for New Zealand Conditions", "New Zealand Journal of Agriculture", vol. 36, page 106, 1928; vol. 39, page 262, 1929.
- S. Pettenkoffer, "Szolomuveles", Budapest, 1930.
- F. Berry-Smith, "Viticulture", New Zealand Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 354, 1952.
- D. S. Kasza, "Research Work on Maturation of Grapes", "New Zealand Journal of Agriculture", vol. 90, page 159, 1955.

Meteorological Records for January

Station	Height of station above M.S.L. (ft.)	Air temperatures in degrees (Fahrenheit)				Rainfall in inches					Bright sunshine hours
		Approx. mean	Difference from normal	Absolute maximum and minimum		Total fall	No. of days of rain	Difference from normal	Maximum fall		
				Maximum	Minimum				Amount	Date	
Kerikeri	201	66.2	+ 1.3	84.0	47.2	0.50	8	- 4.00	0.23	24	313
Auckland	160	67.6	+ 1.2	80.5	52.9	0.31	3	- 2.87	0.26	1	316
Tauranga	10	65.4	+ 0.8	82.4	48.6	0.33	4	- 3.61	0.15	1	313
Ruakura	131	62.7	- 0.4	81.0	38.2	1.26	3	- 2.22	0.93	1	285
Rotorua	975	63.8	+ 1.0	82.0	43.3	0.70	4	- 3.66	0.41	1	282
Gisborne	12	65.4	+ 0.6	84.6	44.8	1.29	6	- 1.25	0.58	12	288
New Plymouth	160	63.2	+ 1.0	80.3	44.5	0.54	6	- 3.93	0.22	1	309
Karioi	2125	59.0	+ 2.0	82.9	32.4	1.17	8	- 2.51	0.50	1	
Napier	5	67.0	+ 1.5	87.0	49.5	0.88	7	- 1.73	0.29	13	301
Wanganui	72	64.6	+ 1.1	81.8	46.9	2.25	5	- 0.53	1.30	5	303
Palmerston North	110	64.4	+ 2.0	83.0	43.8	1.96	8	- 1.24	1.40	5	302
Waingawa	340	63.2	+ 0.8	83.8	39.0	2.00	9	- 1.05	0.45	18	306
Wellington	415	63.7	+ 2.7	78.7	46.3	1.25	7	- 1.83	0.41	2	300
Nelson airfield	5	62.2	+ 0.6	81.6	45.5	1.07	6	- 1.77	0.55	4	326
Blenheim	12	64.9	+ 2.3	88.6	43.5	0.42	5	- 1.57	0.14	2, 4	335
Hokitika	15	57.4	- 0.7	68.9	40.0	6.42	13	- 3.30	2.88	27	230
Hanmer	1270	61.4	+ 1.7	85.5	34.0	1.01	6	- 2.52	0.60	6	294
Christchurch	22	63.8	+ 2.4	87.8	45.0	1.84	6	- 0.39	1.08	6	288
Ashburton	323	63.8	+ 2.8	96.0	40.6	1.39	5	- 1.24	0.77	6	263
Timaru	56	63.2	+ 2.6	86.8	44.8	0.64	6	- 1.73	0.26	27	232
Alexandra	520	63.8	+ 2.1	88.9	41.2	2.08	9	- 0.76	0.61	27	232
Taieri	80	59.0	+ 1.2	84.6	42.5	2.66	13	+ 0.28	0.90	6	186
Invercargill airfield	0	56.2	+ 0.0	75.6	40.3	5.65	17	+ 1.92	1.37	26	197
Chatham Islands	140	60.7	+ 3.4	72.4	46.0	1.35	8	- 1.43	0.34	5	

Show Dates

THE following are dates and venues of A. and P. shows to the end of April.

- 6 April—Oxford A. and P. at Oxford.
- 13 April—Malvern A. and P. at Sheffield.
- 21 April—Strath Taieri A. and P. at Middlemarch.
- *22 April—Mackenzie Highland Show at Fairlie.

WINTER SHOWS

- 15, 16, 17, and 18 May—Whakatane A. and P. at Whakatane.
- *28, 29, 30, and 31 May, 1, 3, and 4 June—Waikato Winter Show at Hamilton.
- *30 and 31 May, 1, 3, and 4 June—Otago A. and P. at Dunedin.
- *12, 13, 14, and 15 June—Taranaki A. and P. at New Plymouth.
- 13, 14, and 15 June—Te Kuiti and District Winter Show at Te Kuiti.
- 25, 26, 27, 28, and 29 June—Whangarei A. and P. Winter Exhibition at Whangarei.

* The Department of Agriculture exhibit will be staged at this show.