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## GRAPE POLLINATION DEVELOP BACON TRADE

Many Varieties Self-sterile and Need Cross-Pollination.

What Investigational Work Has Shown—Varieties of Self-sterile Sorts Recommended—Description of Bladder Campion or Cow Bell.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

For years it has been observed by grape growers that certain varieties typically represented by the Rogers Hybrids, usually produce straggly, loose bunches, especially where planted in blocks. In the same season and under similar conditions other varieties as Concord and Niagara produce well filled, large bunches. The Rogers' varieties with one exception are self-sterile. Our other commercial varieties are all more or less self-fertile.

Considerable investigational work has been done in New York State, in Minnesota, and at Vineland on this problem of self-sterility, with the result that the reason why certain varieties are self-sterile has been established. In our own work, as a result of three years' investigations, we have established the degree of self-fertility and self-sterility of fifty-two varieties of grapes and have ascertained the best pollinators for each self-sterile variety as Lindley, Salem, Brighton, etc. Our experiments have shown:

1. That insects are the chief agents in the distribution of pollen, wind being a negligible factor.
2. That cross-pollination is absolutely necessary in the case of self-sterile varieties, including Barry, Herbert, Lindley, Massasoit, Salem, Wilder, and Brighton. The Agawam is the only one of the commercially planted Rogers' Hybrids which is self-fertile.
3. That the majority of self-fertile varieties such as Concord, Campbell, Niagara, Worden would produce larger crops of fruit if they were cross-pollinated, though good crops are produced under self-pollination conditions. Campbell often has straggly bunches due to imperfect pollination. Cross-pollination would help.
4. That the self-sterile varieties (Barry, Lindley, etc.) pollinated by any one of the self-fertile varieties (Concord, Niagara, etc.) will set crops of marketable fruit, but that for maximum crops certain self-pollinators for certain self-sterile varieties than others. For Agawam and Brighton, the Worden is the best pollinizer; for Massasoit and Wilder, the Niagara is the best pollinizer; for Salem, the Concord; and for Herbert and Lindley, any of the varieties, Concord, Worden, Niagara, Campbell.

Replace Poor Sorts With Good Varieties.

In established vineyards where there are large blocks of the self-sterile Rogers' varieties and consequent poor crops, every third or fourth row should be removed and replaced with Concord, Niagara or similar self-fertile varieties. Further information will gladly be given to those requesting same. Hort. Exp. Station, Vineland Station.

Eradication of Bladder Campion or Cow Bell.

Badly infested fields should be plowed deeply, and then thoroughly cultivated and cross-cultivated with a broad-sharped cultivator in order to break up and weaken the underground rootstocks. This cultivation should be given frequently enough to prevent the plants making any growth above ground until it is time to put in a hoed crop, which must be kept thoroughly clean in order to be effective. Special attention must be given to hoeing out any patches of Bladder Campion which may appear in the corn crop, and which are not destroyed by cultivation. If in the fall there is any Bladder Campion in the field, it will be necessary to plow fairly deeply and cultivate thoroughly and the following spring repeat the frequent cultivation until it is time to put in a hoed crop. This second hoed crop should not be necessary under ordinary conditions. One spring's thorough cultivation, followed by a well cared-for hoed crop should destroy practically all the Bladder Campion. —J. E. Howitt, O.A. College, Guelph.

They Appreciate Canadian Varieties. The Heart's Delight Farm at Chazy, New York State, consisting of eleven thousand acres, is one of the most noted farms in America. It is interesting to learn, when on a recent visit to this farm, that the hundreds of acres of spring grains under cultivation were, in all instances, varieties which had been originated in Canada; the oats and the barley at Guelph, and the spring wheat at Ottawa. The O.A.C. No. 104 variety of winter wheat, originated at Guelph more recently, was being tested out.

Cow Arithmetic.

"I am not strong on arithmetic," said the cow, "but I can add to the bank account of the man who owns me; I can subtract from the principal of his mortgage; I can multiply his chances for success; I can divide his cares and worries; I can give more interest to his work; and I can discount his chances for loss."—Nellieville Cow Testing Association.

The United States Department of Agriculture has recently issued a leaflet on clean milk. The gist of the leaflet is expressed in its concluding sentence: "Keep milk clean, covered, cold."

Name your farm. A good name adds something to it, both as a home and as a place of business.

DEVELOP BACON TRADE

ORGANIZATION OF BOARS IN IMPROVING A POPULAR FORM. Good Progress Is Being Made In Ontario and This Article Contains Some Information Necessary For Success.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

One hundred and fifty pure-bred boars of bacon type have been doing their share to push Ontario over the top as a bacon producing province. These boars have bred during the past year over 7,500 sows, and the progeny are now being marketed. Loaned by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, they have been placed with farmers clubs in twenty-eight counties of the province.

This work which was started a little over two years ago has gone ahead by leaps and bounds. In order that a community may obtain the use of one of these boars, at least ten farmers owning twenty or more breeding sows must organize themselves into a club. They then appoint a caretaker for the boar at a salary agreeable to all parties, and not a service fee to be charged out of which the caretaker receives his pay. Upon making application to the Ontario Live Stock Branch, and with the approval of the Minister of Agriculture, a bacon type boar of the breed desired by the club, is supplied free of charge.

Age of Boar for Service.

The age at which a young boar may be first used depends largely upon his development. Some boars may be used to a few sows when not more than seven months old without apparent injury. As a rule, it is safer not to use a boar before he is eight months old, and to use him as sparingly as possible until he is a year old. No hard and fast rule can be laid down, and the owner must use his judgment in the matter. Excessive use when young is likely to shorten the period of a boar's usefulness and since a boar will usually leave the best pigs after he reaches maturity, the importance of saving him while he is young, will be readily appreciated. Some good breeders will not allow more than one service a day with intervals of one or two days a week without being used in the case of valuable boars. This is a matter which can be regulated better in large herds, where several stock boars are kept, than it can where only one boar is kept and where outside sows are admitted. The owner of a boar under the last-named conditions will require to exercise all his ingenuity to prevent his boar from being used too freely during certain seasons of the year. In no case should more than one service to a sow be permitted, and the boar should not be allowed to run with sows to which he is to be bred. Excessive use is likely to result in small weak litters, and the aim should be to save the boar as much as possible. It is not good to use a boar immediately after he has been fed.

If the boar is shipped some distance and arrives excited and tired, he should be fed very lightly at first, and not used for several weeks after his arrival.

Importance of Exercise.

Probably nothing is more essential to the health and vigor of an animal than exercise. In summer it is usually a comparatively simple matter to provide exercise in a paddock or pasture lot, but in winter it is more difficult. A roopty pen should be provided with a sheltered outside yard. When practicable, it is a good plan to feed the boar outdoors at some distance from his sleeping quarters, thus compelling him to take exercise in walking back and forth between his pen and feeding place. Icy ground is the greatest drawback to this method, but this can be overcome by littering the walk with some straw horse manure. Sometimes the boar can be fed in a well-littered barnyard, which makes a very good arrangement when practicable.

Feeding the Service Boar.

It requires good judgment to keep a boar in the best possible condition. Extremes are to be avoided. The over-fat boar does not make a satisfactory sire as a rule, and a half-starved boar cannot transmit vigor and constitution to his progeny, to the same degree that he would if properly managed. To get the best results the boar should be in fair flesh. A reasonable amount of fat on his bones will do him no harm if he gets sufficient exercise.

An exclusive meal ration will not give good results, especially if the ration is made up of corn. It is true that corn can be fed to a boar without injuring him, but it must be fed in the right way. Corn is fattening, but its exclusive use is debilitating, and the feeder must combine something with it to get good results. Equal parts ground oats and wheat middlings make a first-class meal ration when corn is not used. It gives sufficient bulk, and is nutritious without being heating or too fattening. Ground oats, middlings, or bran may be used singly to dilute corn or other heavy meal; in fact, a very great variety of grains may be fed so long as the feeder used judgment.

Supplemental Feeds. But a boar needs something besides grain and meal to be in his best condition. Skim milk and buttermilk are excellent, and will give good results with meal even if nothing else is used. In winter roots of any kind are much relished. They have a cooling, laxative effect, preventing constipation and keeping the animal thrifty and vigorous. If roots are not available, alfalfa hay of fine quality or even red clover may be used to give bulk to the ration. Some feed the alfalfa hay dry in racks, and others prefer to cut it.

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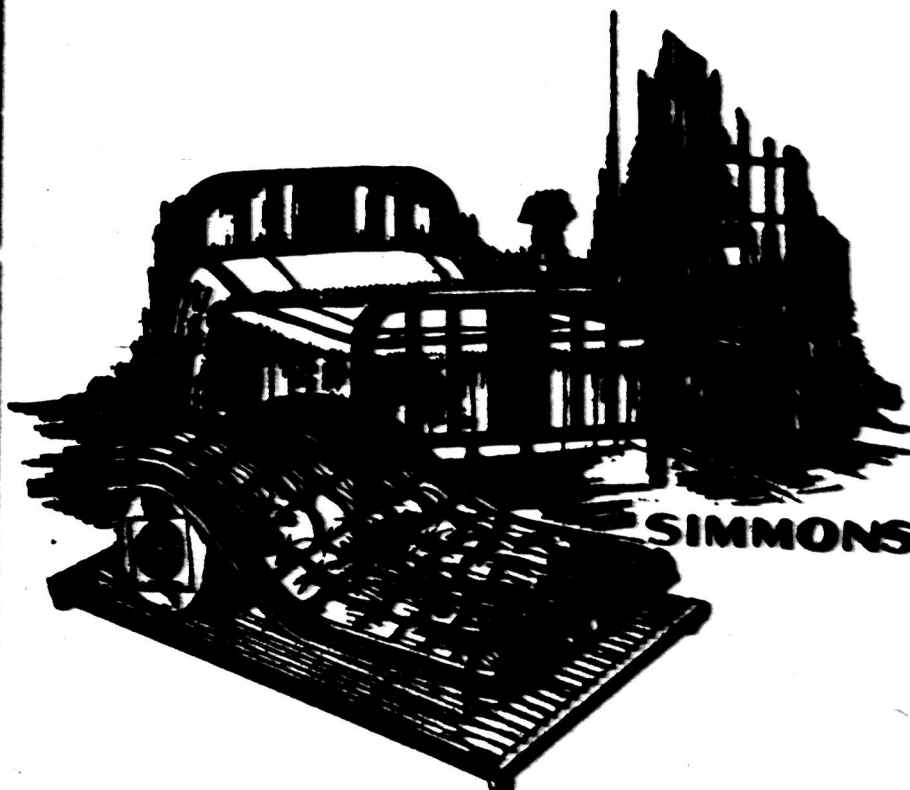
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