

### Other Isolated Regions May Try Plan

At the present time (October, 1927) there are, therefore, already in existence in the United States five pest-free date regions, and it is possible that a few more well-isolated regions may adopt this new system of date culture which insures permanent freedom from all dangerous insect pests and at the same time permits offshoots to be sent to other places no matter how strict their quarantine regulations.

In addition to the insistent demand for date offshoots for planting in those parts of California, Texas, Arizona, and Nevada where high-class dates can be grown on a commercial scale for shipment to distant markets, there is a demand, and a rapidly growing one, for date palms for dooryard plantings and for ornamental purposes in regions where dates can not be grown profitably on a large commercial scale. The region where dates can be grown for ornament and as a dooryard fruit tree is very much larger than the region outlined above and probably covers nearly three-fourths of California, one-fourth of Arizona, and the whole Gulf coast region from southern Texas to southern Florida, and up the Atlantic coast as far north as South Carolina, a total of perhaps 150 counties, to say nothing of Hawaii, Porto Rico, and other insular possessions.

#### Permanent Date Nursery

Only offshoots from pest-free regions can be shipped to any of these places, so it is highly probable that a permanent date-nursery business will grow up in these pest-free date regions to supply pest-free offshoots not only to the commercial date-growing regions of this and other countries but also to the much larger regions in this and other countries where the date palm can be grown as dooryard fruit trees and for ornament.

At first sight it would seem that pest-free date plantations could be established for the purpose of growing nursery stock in regions where the climate is not hot enough to permit the growing of dates suitable for packing. It has been found, however, that in the regions where date palms would be planted in dooryard gardens and for ornamental purposes the date palm is very susceptible to the attacks of a fungous disease caused by *Graphiola phoenicis*. This fungous disease is very difficult to control and would interfere with the shipment of date offshoots to any part of the United States or to any foreign country. This fungous pest fortunately does not readily gain access to desert regions, so the pest-free date regions that have been established in the hot, dry irrigated valleys of California, Arizona, Nevada, and Texas can doubtless be kept entirely free from this and other fungous diseases as well as from all dangerous insect pests.

WALTER T. SWINGLE.

**D**EWBERRY of the Young Variety Has Excellent Qualities. The Young dewberry variety is remarkable for its dessert and culinary qualities, vigorous growth, and disease resistance. Its fruit is large for a dewberry, deep wine color, juicy, sweeter and richer than the Logan blackberry or the Lucretia dewberry. The plants are more vigorous, propagate even more freely, and are more resistant to anthracnose and

common leaf-spot diseases than either of the above-mentioned sorts. These characteristics have led the United States Department of Agriculture to recommend a thorough trial of this variety for home use and the local market and also for the general market. (Fig. 71.)

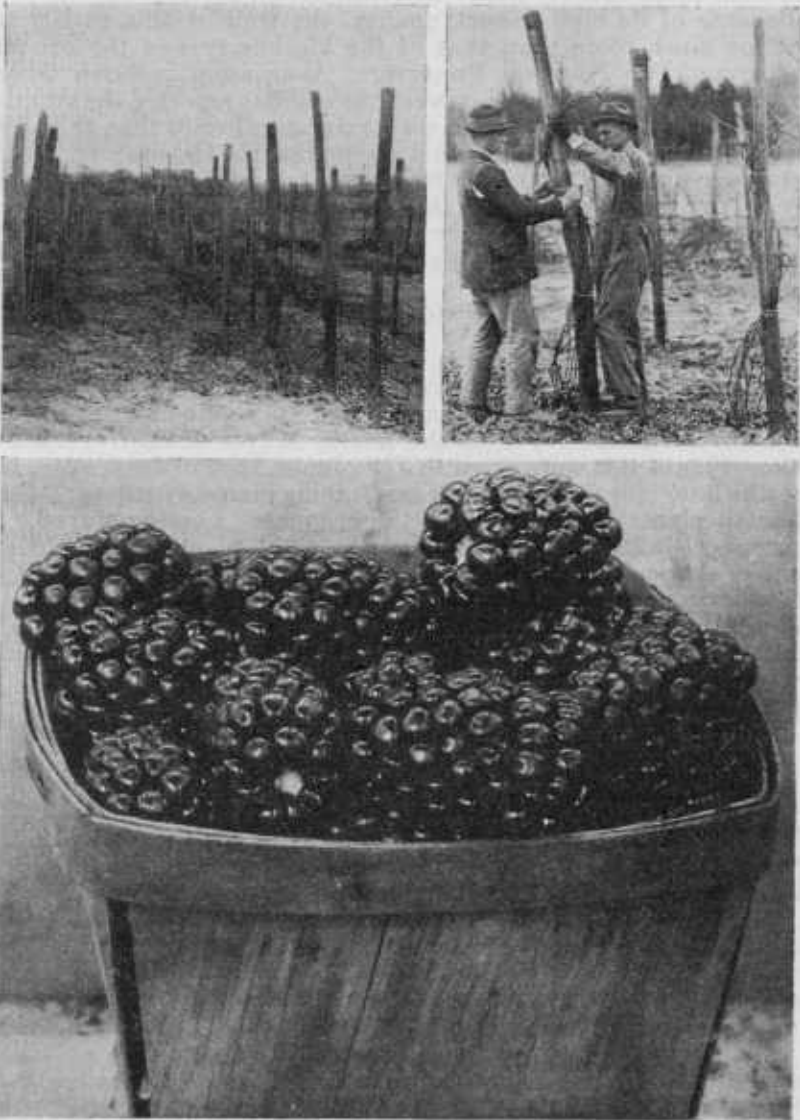


FIG. 71.—Upper left, Young dewberry in early spring; upper right, all vigorous canes are being trained to the stake in a spiral; lower, pint basket of the Young dewberry, showing its large size and the large size of its drupelets

For the last three years the Young dewberry has been widely tested. As the result of these tests it is known to succeed well in central and eastern North Carolina, in Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, eastern Texas, and California. It is promising also in the

Puget Sound region of Washington. Although the northern limit of its successful culture is not known, it should be tried from Virginia southward to northern Florida and westward to Arkansas and eastern Texas and in western Washington, Oregon and California. It does not seem to be entirely hardy at Washington, D. C.

Because of its high dessert quality, the fruit of this variety has sold for much more than that of the blackberry and the common dewberry. The National Preservers' Association research laboratory has tested the variety for preserves and has reported that it made a more attractive product in flavor, texture, and color than the blackberry. For making commercial preserves the laboratory recommends equal parts of sugar and fruit with the addition of a slight quantity of citric acid to bring out the best flavor. As a fresh-fruit drink the juice is apparently equal or superior to that of the Logan blackberry and much superior to that of any other bramble.

### Unique History of the Variety

The history of this variety is unique. It was almost lost to horticulture even after its merit was first partly recognized. It was originated by B. M. Young, of Louisiana, as the result of a cross of the Phenomenal blackberry with the Austin Mayes dewberry, made in 1905. Plants of it were given to J. F. Jones, then of Jeanerette, La., but who later moved to Pennsylvania, taking plants with him. Meanwhile all plants on the place of the originator were destroyed. In November, 1921, Mr. Jones sent a few of the plants to the Department of Agriculture for testing. When they came into fruiting in 1923 they immediately attracted attention. Plants were propagated and the variety sent out for trial. Mr. Jones also sent plants to southern Alabama, where the variety succeeded and is now being grown commercially.

The culture of this and other dewberries and trailing blackberries is discussed in Farmers' Bulletins 998 and 1403.

GEORGE M. DARROW.

**E** DUCATION Scope in Agriculture Cultural as Well as Technical The foundation for the American system of agricultural and industrial education was laid by the Morrill Act of 1862, which gave to each State 30,000 acres of public land for each Representative and Senator to which it was entitled in Congress. The proceeds derived from the sale of this land, including the interest on the funds, was to be used for the support of—

at least one college in each State where the leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classic studies and including military science, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and mechanic arts in order to promote the liberal and practical education of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life.

This movement marked the beginning of a new era in American higher education. It was a notable departure from the traditional aristocratic conception of education. The provisions of the Morrill Act have been sufficiently broad and elastic for the development of a comprehensive system of agricultural education throughout the United States. Subsequent acts of Congress have aided materially