







# Michigan Argus.

**Varieties of Grapes.**  
In the December number of *How's* Magazine of Horticulture, the editor gives his opinion at length about the best of the various grapes now in general use, or about being introduced for the purpose of general cultivation. The opinion of such men is always valuable, even when not wholly free from the self-interest of nurserymen, and in this case it may serve as a guide to those disposed to plant a few vines for home use the coming Spring.

The Concord, Mr. Hovey thinks the universal grape for the million, after seven years trial, and will be preferred to the Delaware. It ripens perfectly at Boston, and is hardy in Winter when the Diana and Isabella are killed, and it is free from mildew, and gives a crop every year.

The Delaware, after fighting its way for nearly ten years, is gaining in the estimation of cultivators. Delicious as the fruit is, it is not so hardy as the Concord, and the berries lack size and appearance. It is a little too small, while its color does not make that show that the dark grapes do, with their rich bloom. The vines, too, want vigor and robustness. Young vines do not take hold of the ground readily; the foliage mildews slightly, and the slender wood does not cover the trellis quick enough. But, to make up for these defects, it is hardy, productive, bears young, and is as healthy as any grape. In its culture it needs generous treatment, a good soil, and plenty of manure.

The Diana is undoubtedly a very fine grape; Time, however, has revealed a few defects. It is not so hardy as desirable, for if left uncovered, a severely cold Winter will destroy the canes. It sometimes mildews, and the berries ripen unevenly, some being quite green when others are fully ripe. A warm, generous soil, and Winter protection, are the requisites of a good crop.

The Rebecca is rather small; ripens as early as the Diana; the berries rich, amber colored, fine aroma, quality, and well ripened, superior. Growth slender, and needs Winter protection.

The Union Village is large, handsome, bunches and berries large vines strong growers, and with Winter protection is valuable.

The Hartford Prolific matures earlier than the Concord; bunches and berries large, but liable to drop; fruit good; vines hardy, and free growers; not inclined to mildew; is a desirable variety because the earliest, and because, like the Concord, vines grow through neglected places.

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