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The Columbian

Imperial Grape.

THE LARGEST, . . .
MOST MAGNIFICENT
GRAPE

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TO-DAY IN THE WORLD.

J. R. JOHNSON, INTRODUCER,

DALLAS, TEXAS.

This grape was the great IMPERIAL GRAPE of the COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION at Chicago in 1893, where it was exhibited in its magnificent splendor of growth and fruit, and successfully challenged the World to produce its equal or superior. COMBINING its characteristics of superb vigor of growth, healthfulness, productiveness, earliness, quality, magnitude, rich color, attractive table and market, and unequaled shipping and keeping qualities.

In offering this grand grape to the horticultural and viticultural world we desire to say that, having devoted the greater part of our life-work to the close study of horticulture and viticulture, and having earnestly striven to merit the generous confidence and kind expressions of opinion accorded us in the past for all meritorious fruits which we have introduced, we now offer the most valuable grape that we have ever known, confidently feeling that we are offering the most meritorious fruit that we have ever introduced, which will win popularity and commendation commensurate with its merit and earn for us commendation commensurate with our earnest efforts for progression.

We have subjected it to the most critical tests known to viticulturists and it has met our most sanguine expectations, we have fearlessly submitted it to the most learned scientists and highest viticultural authorities to-day on the globe, and this is the best evidence one can offer in proof of confidence in its worth.

The testimonials we subjoin to this circular letter are from intelligent, practical men of sterling integrity and prominence in this field of work, and well known to the horticultural world, and it is with pleasure that we offer this grand grape to the planting world upon its merits as embraced in the Description of the grape given herein, supported by the individual testimony of men who stand high in the field of science and human advancement.

NOTICE!

Our Trade-mark and Seal is shown above and every COLUMBIAN IMPERIAL GRAPE sold by us or by our authority, will bear the same, evidencing its genuineness. We have the exclusive right to control, propagate and sell the COLUMBIAN IMPERIAL GRAPE, and our Salesmen will be furnished with a printed Certificate of Authority, under Seal, and bearing our signature. We own and control all the wood of this grape and prohibit its propagation and disposition in any manner, and are protected under the Copy-right and registered Trade-mark laws of the United States, and any infringement will receive prompt attention and the attaching penalty. PRICES—Two-year-old vines, \$2.50 each; one-year-old vines, \$2.00 each, both sold under Seal, evidencing genuineness.

J. R. JOHNSON, Introducer.

DALLAS, TEXAS

Largest, most Productive and
Hardest Grape known.

THE COLUMBIAN IMPERIAL GRAPE.

DESCRIPTION

This magnificent grape is a native Hybrid cross evidencing two bloods—*Labrusca* and *Uparia*.

The vine is productive, robust and hardy, makes vigorous growth and a magnificent development of deep-penetrating and a mass of fibrous roots; its general characteristics unquestionably prove it to be a very repellant stock capable of successfully combatting Phyloxera (root-lice) and Fungoid diseases.

The leaf is very large and smooth, not deeply lobed, lobes obtusely pointed and obtusely serrated, rich green in color, and healthy, showing perfect freedom from *Peronospora* and *Oidium* (the downy and powdery mildews).

The bunch is large, berries very large—some measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter under intelligent culture, uniform in size, and ripen uniformly and perfectly; color is a rich blue-black tinged rich ruby until fully ripe, and overspread with a heavy bloom; berries cling tenaciously to the stems; skin is thin but tenacious and does not crack; berries are very juicy and sweet; and the longer the grape is kept the richer it becomes in aroma, flavor and sweetness, these characteristics make it a grand shipper. The fruit shows perfect freedom from *Phoma-uvicola* and *Anthraco-nose* (black-rot and bird's-eye rot) and the grape is a magnificent keeper; shows no disposition to rot or mould, rather dries up into raisins of good quality; it also makes a wine of fine body and aroma.

This grape adapts itself readily to different soils and climatic conditions, we have thoroughly tested its ability to withstand extremes of heat or cold by growing it in a latitude where the mercury has registered 28 degrees below zero, and where it has reached 104 degrees in the shade and we have observed no material variation in the growth and healthfulness of this grand grape.

It is a vigorous grower and very productive, the parent vine, now over ten years old, covers an arbor 50 by 90 feet and has borne in one season between 300 and 400 pounds of elegant fruit and made over 4000 feet of new wood, as an arbor grape it has no equal.

Neither Vine, Leaf or Fruit has, so far, shown any insect trouble, or fungoid or sporadic disease whatever under our most powerful lenses.

Considering the general characteristics of this grape: its healthfulness, adaptability to different classes of soils, prolific fruiting qualities, earliness, immense size of bunch and berries, rich and attractive color, table, wine and market qualities, tenacity of berries, and firm texture, remarkable shipping and keeping qualities, they make this grape one of the most valuable acquisitions to our already fine list of American table, wine and market grapes that it has ever been our good fortune to know, and we believe that in same we possess a very valuable grape both for large commercial viticulturists and amateur growers.

We have named this grand grape the COLUMBIAN IMPERIAL believing it to be appropriate and in keeping with the magnitude and superiority of this grand acquisition also for the reason that this new candidate for public favor was exhibited in its splendor and brought prominently before admiring thousands at the great COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION at Chicago in 1893; it was truly THE IMPERIAL GRAPE of the great World's Fair, where it successfully challenged the world to produce its equal or superior in magnificence, there it proudly entered upon its public career, there it defied the world as to combination of size, rich color and marvelous keeping qualities, excelling even the Giant Marocros and Flame Tokays of boasted California; there it remained unchanged in plates for five consecutive weeks, remaining perfectly sound and firm in bunch and berry and unchanged in color; there it won commendation from a large number of learned scientists and practical viticulturists who critically examined it, and from whom we received a large number of valuable testimonials; the CHAIRMAN OF THE HORTICULTURAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION stated officially that it was deemed worthy to take the lead among the many hundreds of valuable grapes examined and tested there; the POMOLOGIST in charge there noted its immense size, magnificent color and good quality and stated he considered it as exceedingly promising, this official also noted the fact in the public press of heavy competition from every state and country on the globe, (of California having an exhibit of eight car-loads of fruit including an immense grape display, and New York an exhibit of 1225 plates of fine fruits, 500 of which contained grapes alone) and he added that our magnificent grape was, possibly, the Greatest Novelty of the Horticultural Department of the great World's Fair.

We have and shall continue to have this grand grape thoroughly tested under every climatic condition and upon every class of soils by Experimental Stations and learned Scientists in America and Europe.

Nearly every Experimental Station in the United States and the U. S. Pomologist have asked for vines of this grand grape for testing, and the latter has paid it the neat compliment of saying that the Agricultural Department at Washington desires to keep an official record of this grape in every state.

We have tested this grape for years and fearlessly submit it to the crucial tests of the scientific and viticultural world, confidently commending it to planters, and we trust and believe that it will be true to itself and to its Introducer and prove itself worthy the name of the IMPERIAL GRAPE of the GREATEST HORTICULTURAL EXPOSITION the World has ever seen, and maintain the dignity of its name, its public birth place and be worthy the high ecomiums it has already received from intelligent scientists and practical vineyardists.

Very truly,

J. R. JOHNSON, INTRODUCER,
Dallas, Texas.

TESTIMONIALS COMMENDING THE COLUMBIAN IMPERIAL GRAPE.

From the valuable GRAPE MANUAL of Messrs. Bush, Son & Meissner of Missouri, we quote as follows:

"COLUMBIAN IMPERIAL GRAPE. (Lab.x Rip.) Vine very hardy, robust and of vigorous growth, very prolific and free from fungoid disease. Leaf large, bright and smooth. Bunch large and attractive, compact, double-shouldered. Berries very large, some measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, of deep blue-black color, overspread with a heavy bloom; skin very firm; pulp sweet and very juicy, separating freely from the seeds, which are small for so large a berry. Quality good; ripens in the North the latter part of August; clings to the stem with tenacity; has fine keeping qualities, finally drying up into a fair quality of raisins.

Promises to be a great acquisition to our list of market grapes. This 'big grape' "was first brought to notice at the Columbian Exposition in the Horticultural Department of the great World's Fair in Chicago, was admired by thousands and received a large number of valuable testimonials, among others from Geo. A. Manning, Chairman of the Horticultural Committee, World's Columbian Commission."

From the REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, Division of Pomology for 1893, we extract the following relative to the COLUMBIAN IMPERIAL GRAPE:

"Cluster medium to large, shouldered; berry very large, roundish, slightly elongated, adhering firmly to the stem; surface almost black with heavy bloom; skin thin, with slight reddish-purple pigment; flesh yellowish green, meaty, quite firm, juicy, and quite sweet. A very large grape of fair quality. Vine a strong grower with large leaves."

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, {
Division of Pomology.
Washington, D. C. April 25th, 1895. }

Mr. J. R. Johnson, Dallas, Texas.

DEAR SIR:—"I have this day compared the photograph, recently received, with the vine of the Columbian Imperial grape received a few days since in advance. The Photo is no exaggeration, having been taken from the vine sent to the Division of Pomology, and from the thickness of the roots where pruned I would infer that at least one-half of their length had been removed before being photographed.

The roots of the upper node are more abundant than we usually see on many other varieties rooted at a single node. I have examined vines of a great many varieties, but this vine surpasses any other I have ever seen. I would be pleased to have a Litho of the fruit, and a Half-tone print of the one-year vine of which you kindly sent a photograph to this division. The vine has been carefully planted and placed under restrictions and a report will be made when it has fruited."

Under date of May 10th, 1895, the Pomologist adds: According to request I referred the grape vine to Prof. F. Lamson Scribner, who not now being connected with the Division of Vegetable Pathology, referred the same to Prof. L. O. Howard who informs my messenger that he saw nothing to report against." I am yours truly,

S. B. HEIGHES, U. S. Pomologist.

PARKSKEY, VA., May 21st, 1895.

Mr. J. R. Johnson, Dallas, Texas.

MY DEAR SIR: Some days ago I received from you a package by way of Washington, D. C., containing a young vine of the Columbian Imperial Grape. Such a mass of vigorous roots I never saw before on so young a vine. The growth of vine as well as roots is phenomenal. The variety is one which will certainly recommend itself for healthful vigor above any other of which I know. As a stock for feeble or phylloxera infested species or varieties it will be especially useful. The vine is not likely to be affected with anthracnose.

I am glad to have the opportunity to say a good word for anything valuable that you have. If the fruit of the grape is as good as the vine it must be a most worthy variety. Send me sample of the fruit in season of full maturity when its flavor is at its best. It was with pleasure that your letter was received. I number yourself and wife among my most sincere friends as well as co-workers in the field of Pomology. I have often thought of both of you and have not forgotten the very pleasant days I have spent at your place. Let me hear from you at any time. Very sincerely and fraternally to both of you,

H. E. VAN DEMAN, Ex-United States Pomologist.

"This grand grape is immense in size, good in quality, firm in texture, rich in color and magnificently attractive as a market grape, and as a shipper and keeper it has had no equal shown against it here at the Columbian Exposition where it has challenged the world. It is juicy and sweet and is especially valuable as a wine adjunct, making a rich wine of fine body and bouquet. Its wonderful vitality and heavy root formation, as well as its magnificent growth and freedom from grape diseases, have commanded the attention and commendation of large numbers of practical vineyardists who have seen it exhibited here. Aside from its own individual merit as to its fruit, as a stock upon which to engraft tender Venifera, or raisin types of grapes, it will be commercially valuable as its root growth is a mass of deep growing and fibrous roots and its great vitality enables it to successfully withstand the ravages of phylloxera which devastate more delicate types having meager root formations."

J. GUY LEWIS, M. D.,
General Supt. Oregon Exhibit, World's Columbian Exposition.

The Columbian Imperial Grape.

The Largest, Most Magnificent and Most Vigorous Grape to-day in the World.

Prices, Terms, Notice, Etc., to the Trade.

KNOWING the worth of this grand Grape and desiring to introduce the same to the great planting public and realizing that the members of the trade will be valuable auxiliaries in so doing, and knowing it to be one of the **most meritorious, attractive and profitable productions** ever offered to the trade, and one of the most satisfactory and valuable grapes to the planter ever introduced, we have decided to make the following **liberal offer to the trade**, believing our Nursery friends will promptly accord it the high place it deserves, and that they will handle and push the same in their retail orders. We will furnish Columbian Imperial Grape order books to the trade, embracing Certificate of authority to sell, same to be returned to us for filing. We will fill and ship wholesale orders upon demand and furnish F. O. B. at Dallas, Texas; St. Louis, Mo.; Denver, Col.; Post Falls, Idaho; Dayton, Ohio; and Rochester, N. Y.; each shipment to weigh not less than 100 lbs. to entitle same to F. O. B. Terms Cash with the order for shipment, or satisfactory references, or approved security.

This Grape is protected under the Copy-right and Registered Trade-mark laws of the United States, and will be sold under Seal, and our retail prices and restrictions as to propagation of this Grape must be adhered to, and no substitution infringement permitted.

We submit the following liberal wholesale prices only to those who will handle the Columbian Imperial Grape in their trade.

PRICES.

Strong 2 year vines, retail price, - - - \$2.50 each;	Wholesale price to the trade, - - - - - \$1.15 each.
Strong 1 year vines, retail price, - - - \$2.00 each;	Wholesale price to the trade, - - - - - 95c each.

Address all communications and orders to **J. R. JOHNSON, Introducer,**
303 McKinney Avenue,

DALLAS, TEXAS.

"Remarkable in size and uniformity, free from blemish, quality good, firmness and color first class. Vine, leaf and fruit indicate vigor, health and freedom from sporadic or other trouble. A fine, tenacious shipper and I cheerfully commend it to vineyardists as the most meritorious new grape known to me."

W. R. HARRIS.

Member Nebraska World's Fair Commission.

"A magnificent grape of immense size, rich color and fine keeping qualities, and certainly destined to become a valuable and excellent shipper. Vine and leaf indicate wonderful vitality and ability to combat disease."

J. E. REYNOLDS.

Chief Colorado World's Fair Commission.

"It certainly is a very promising grape. Very large and of fine flavor; vine productive and hardy. This grape possesses qualities which commend it to grape culturists."

N. G. BLALOCK M. D.,

Pres. Washington World's Fair Commission.

"I have examined the 'big grape' that you are introducing and must say that it has every appearance of being very hardy. It is an abundant bearer and is of good flavor. As for size it is simply wonderful."

J. D. RADER,

Chief Arkansas Horticultural Exhibit, World's Fair.

"Of your new grape I will say that it is the largest that I ever saw and I have been a horticulturist and viticulturist over 30 years and have been identified in introducing many meritorious fruits, was one among the first who championed the favorite Delaware. Your grape evidences Labrusca and Riparia parentage combining the good qualities of both parents, its quality is good and is unquestionably a grand market variety as its immense size and appearance make it very attractive."

A. H. GASTON, (Viticulturist), Harvey, Ill.

"Giving my opinion relative to your grand, new grape, will say it is the largest that I ever saw, and I find it to be an excellent table and showy market grape. Its quality is surprisingly good for so large a grape. I have never before seen berries cling to the stems with such firmness. The vine seems to be very hardy and a vigorous grower. I predict for its future that it will be a grand success."

A. H. YOUNG, Viticulturist, Roscoe, Ill.

"I have examined and tested the Columbian Imperial Grape and must say that it is the largest of the hardy grapes that I have ever seen. The quality is fair and it seems to me that the grape may become very popular." Under date of March 9th, 1895, this gentleman adds: "I was a good deal interested in the MAMMOTH proportions of the fruit of this grape shown at the World's Fair." Yours sincerely,

F. W. TAYLOR, Sec'y. Nebraska State Hort. Society Lincoln, Neb.

"We shall be glad to test your Columbian Imperial grape and will give it careful trial under your restrictions. At the World's Fair in Chicago I remember seeing a new MAMMOTH grape. If this is the one it is certainly promising and well worthy of trial."

J. L. BUDD, Dept. of Hort. Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa.

"The Columbian Imperial Grape received in good condition and a GRAND VINE it is. As I wish to have plenty of fruit of it I am tempted to send for two more. Please ship soon."

SAMUEL MILLER, Bluffton, Mo.

Second Vice-Pres. Mo. Hort. Society.

"During a recent visit to the originator I had the pleasure of seeing the original parent vine of the grand Columbian Imperial Grape and I saw upon same between 300 and 400 pounds of the largest, finest grapes that I ever saw, after the originator had supplied freely all who came. It is simply wonderful to think of one vine covering an arbor of about 50 by 90 feet and bearing such a quantity of fine fruit, which I believe excels anything of its kind in America in size, and the quality is good."

"I wish those interested in fine grape culture could see this grand vine. It certainly is an IMPERIAL GRAPE. No one can imagine its magnitude without seeing it, for they could hardly believe it possible for one vine to cover such space and bear such a quantity of magnificent fruit; any viticulturist would be well repaid in going to see it. I consider it exceedingly valuable and a vineyard of the same is a magnificent investment. Could vineyardists see the parent vine they would not hesitate to give \$5.00 for a single vine propagated from the same. Wishing it continued success, I remain, yours truly,"

HENRY WARREN, Orient, Ohio.

THE AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT AT WASHINGTON and nearly every EXPERIMENTAL STATION in the United States have each requested a vine of the grand COLUMBIAN IMPERIAL GRAPE for testing, and the UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—the land of fine grapes—has asked for FOUR vines for each of its FIVE Experimental Stations for testing its superior merits.

J. R. JOHNSON, Introducer, Dallas, Texas.