

## **Muscat of Alexandria Grape Culture Developed in Okayama (2)**

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### **Summary**

Muscat of Alexandria cultivation has experienced a tremendous increase after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. Shizuka Irie, an excellent young Muscat grower, contributed remarkably to the development of that era. He transferred and utilized superior cultivation methods such as adequate fertilizer and irrigation levels, large vine canopy, proper ventilation, etc. He also assisted Muscat growers by extending his experiences via frequent vineyard meetings and broadcastings. Since 1962, the acreage of Muscat greenhouses has increased rapidly due to the onset of governmental financial support to the Muscat growers. Tokio Katayama who established a lumber company after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War, built a large number of Muscat greenhouses in compliance with grower's wishes. In the 1970's Noburo Kondo, a Muscat grower enthusiastic about efficient Muscat cultivation, devised the first multi-span type of greenhouse. The greenhouse proved to have many advantages, especially as a cool environment during summer seasons, labor saving for vine management, and fuel saving for vine heating. His friend, Minoru Ouchi, adopted a Dutch-type multi-span greenhouse and developed root-zone restriction planting, which enabled the production of high quality clusters. On the other hand, Muscat growers in Hunaho-cho had tried numerous methods to overcome the vine weakness and the inhibition of flower development, usually caused after early heating. They found that early heated Muscat vines need special cultivation conditions such as high root and air temperatures as well as high humidity before bud bursting. Such conditions were mastered by adding a vast volume of field manure above the ground surface. Finally, they became able to produce normal clusters in early May of each year.