

Identification of local grape vine cultivars in Kashmar

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Grape is one of the major fruits of the world as it constitute 25% of the total fruit productions of the world. Among other countries, Iran plays an important role in grape production and this country is known as the origin of some varieties.

This wild varieties of this crop are still available in the north western parts of Iran. There are about 600 varieties of grape in Iran and it shows that Iran can be considered as a centre of genetical grape resources of the world.

Local varieties are the limited genetical resources which are suffering less attention and degredate gradually. Keeping in mind that local cultivars are exposed to succceptable different destructive factors like natural disasters, industrial developments, agricultural development and adoption of hybrids, bad effects of pesticides and fertilizers, and wars.

As the genetical resources are the based for production of high yielding and disease resistant crops, it is necessary to preserve the local varieties to produce high yielding crops which are resistant to dieaseases and environmental stresses.

In this research work the IBPGR descriptor was used to identify the Kashmar cultivars. The identified cultivars have the following characteristics and they are placed under the species *Vitis vinifera* L.

Twenty one cultivars of Kashmar varieties were identified and according to the vegetative and productive cycle characteristics, the identification key for these cultivars is prepared and presented in this work.