

It's the Berries

by Robert Grissom

Motif Series

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The dictionary defines berry as any small, juicy, fleshy fruit with seeds. These pages discuss carnival glass patterns that use berries as part of the design motif. Not included here are Fenton's Butterfly and Berry and Cambridge's Inverted Strawberry, both of which will be covered at a later time.

Next to grapes, berries were probably the most frequently used design motif in carnival. The berries, along with the accompanying foliage, provided an excellent opportunity for the glass designer to offer a rich variety of forms while appealing to people still emerging from an agrarian society.



Strawberry epergne (above) and Wild Blackberry.

Curiously, the Strawberry epergne is the only pattern Dugan made with these berries. And then, the pattern is only on the inside of the bowl. At the right is a 9½-inch Wild Blackberry plate in amethyst. It's difficult enough to find the bowls, but the plate is extremely rare. This one was recently discovered in England.





Northwood's Blackberry and Rays and Raspberry. The Blackberry and Rays compote is the only shape appearing in the pattern. Raspberry is found on both milk and water pitchers as well as tumblers, gravy boats, and compotes (which are sometimes referred to as Blackberry).



Millersburg's Strawberry Wreath (above) and Blackberry Wreath. These, along with the Millersburg Grape Wreath, all have the same wreath design circling the center. Only the center design changes; the Strawberry Wreath displaying only a dot. The Blackberry Wreath has central design of a berry laying on top of a group of leaves.



Fenton's Blackberry Bramble, Blackberry Open Edge, Briar Patch, and Blackberry Spray. Blackberry Bramble is found only the ruffled compote shown here. The Blackberry Open Edge, from a mold similar to the Open Edge pieces but without the berry interior, is seen in scarce bowls, hat or basket shapes, rare plates, and even more rare swung vases. Briar Patch (upper right) is known only in the four ruffled hat shown here. Blackberry Spray is known in a variety of ruffled hats and the crimped jack-in-the-pulpit hat at the right.



Northwood's Wild Strawberry (above) and Strawberry. The most distinguishing feature of these almost identical patterns is the small blossom that appears toward the outside edge on the Wild Strawberry design. Wild Strawberry is found in large and small bowls and handgrip plates. Strawberry comes in 9-inch bowls and plates, some with stippling such as on the plate at right—the only one known in blue.





Fenton's Strawberry Scroll and Blueberry. In each case, only water pitchers and tumblers are known in the pattern.



Fenton's Blackberry Block and Dragon and Strawberry. Blackberry Block is known only in pitchers and tumblers; Dragon and Strawberry only in spatula-footed and collar-base bowls. The known plates are missing the dragon.



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