



Seedless Table Grape Trial Report 2012
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Seedless table grapes can be grown in Wisconsin with careful management and selection of varieties for the zones in each area. Breeding programs across the country are releasing new winter-hardy selections and several older hardy Elmer Swenson varieties are once again being planted.

The major limiting factors in producing seedless table grapes in any temperate climate is the ability of the vines to survive the cold, freezing temperatures of northern regions, late spring frost, and fluctuating rainfall. The cropping loads, disease infections, and drought also impacted cold hardiness. Each of these factors stress the plants and decrease the vines ability to develop strong overwintering capacities.

The length of the growing season or ripening period also dictates what cultivars can be grown in regions where the frost-free days may be fewer than 150 days. The growing season is determined by the dates of the first and last frost of any one-year.

This report identifies the seedless table grape varieties that have been trialed at the University of Wisconsin – Madison, West Madison Agricultural Research Station since 2007. Fifteen varieties were planted in June of 2007. Five years later 12 cultivars are still in the trial and all produced abundant fruit in 2012. Some data is included from past years to show continuity of cultivars/varieties.

Seedless Table Grape Cultivar Trial - Summer of 2012
The following data was collected during the growing season 2012



‘Canadice’

- Fruit rose colored, red, mid-size, sweet, complex, spicy taste, 20.8 - 23.5 brix when ripe
- Good resistance to downy mildew/powdery mildew
- Mid-season harvest, held well on vine – 8/23 – 9/11, good storage potential. 2011 harvest continued over a six week period
- Clusters 0.480 to 0.530 lbs., average vine 18.5 - 24.52 lbs.
- Vines medium vigor
- Medium winter hardiness, good management of fruit load to increases winter hardiness



‘Einset’

- Fruit light rose of med-size, very spicy, fruity, clear, clean taste, 20.0 to 21.4 brix when ripe
- Good resistance to downy mildew/powdery mildew
- Early harvest, held well on vine – 8/23 – 9/4, good storage potential
- Clusters 0.338 lbs. to 0.141 lbs., average vine 13.12 lbs.
- Vines vigorous, slow to develop
- Excellent winter hardiness, good management of vines and fruit load

Seedless Table Grape Cultivar Trial - Summer of 2012



'Reliance'

- Fruit soft rose with blush of green, very beautiful, complex flavors, problem with uniform ripening in 2011, ripe 19.8 to 20.0 brix, brix first harvest 18.5. Ripening problem decreased in 2012 by pulling leaves to expose clusters and decreasing cluster numbers
- Good resistance to downy and powdery mildew, controlled with sprays
- Mid/late season harvest; held well on vine – 9/14 – 10/1
- Clusters 0.340 - .0583 lbs.
- Vines very vigorous
- High winter hardiness



'Somerset Seedless'

- Fruit rose colored, very complex flavor, quite sweet, ripe 24.7 to 26.5
- Good resistance to downy and powdery mildew, any outbreaks controlled by sprays
- Early season harvest, first to ripen, eight harvests – 8/13 – 9/11
- Clusters 0.262 – 0.282 lbs., berries smaller than other varieties
- Vines very vigorous – needs to be on high cordon
- Excellent winter hardiness



'Vanessa'

- Fruit deep rose, red, with very spicy, complex, sweet taste, ripe at 19.0 to 20.0 brix
- Susceptibility to downy mildew low, powdery mildew medium, sprays control outbreaks
- Early season harvest, right after Somerset Seedless, eight weeks of harvest 8/13 -9/11, good storage
- Clusters 0.262 - 0.342 lbs.
- Vines medium vigor
- Good winter hardiness – excellent with good vine management



'Himrod'

- Fruit clear green/white, sweet, clear taste of “green grape”, brix 20.5 – 22.1
- Good resistance to downy mildew, susceptible to powdery mildew, sprays control outbreaks easily
- Early harvest, harvest from 8/23 – 9/11, excellent storage
- Clusters 0.210 - 0.285 lbs.
- Vines vigorous
- Excellent winter hardiness

Seedless Table Grape Cultivars Trial - Summer of 2012



'Interlaken'

- Fruit deep green, very sweet with undertones of spices – ginger, brix 20.8 – 21.3, very sweet at lower 18.3 brix
- Good downy mildew resistance, very low susceptibility to powdery mildew, sprays control outbreaks easily
- Mid-season harvest, held well on vine 8/23 – 9/11 lbs., good storage potential
- Clusters 0.325 l – 0.590 lbs.
- Vines medium vigor
- Very good to medium winter hardiness. Need to manage crop load and canopy for good winter hardiness



'Lakemont'

- Fruit green with no blush, very sweet when fully ripe, brix 20.0 – 21.7, is very sweet at 18.5 brix
- Good downy mildew resistance, very low susceptibility to powdery mildew, sprays control any outbreaks
- Mid-season harvest, held well on vine 8/23 – 9/11, good storage potential
- Clusters 0.359 – 0.587 lbs.
- Vines medium vigor
- Very good to medium winter hardiness. Need to manage crop load and canopy for good winter hardiness



'Marquis'

- Fruit deep green, with light, sweet taste, spicy undertones, brix 18.3 – 20.0
- Medium susceptibility to downy and powdery mildew, controlled with sprays
 - Late season harvest, short season harvest 8/23 - 9/11
- Clusters 0.340 – 0.320 lbs.
- Vines medium vigor
- Excellent winter hardiness



‘Mars’

- Fruit deep-purple, a bit astringent, clear fruity taste, brix 17.7 to 21.3
- Susceptible to downy mildew and powdery mildew, sprays control out
- Mid/late season harvest 8/23/ - 9/11
- Cluster 0.225 - 0.475 lbs., trouble with ripening, manage fruit load
- Vines very vigorous, high cordon
- Excellent winter hardiness



‘ Trollhaugen’

- Deep purple, spicy, complex taste and very crisp, brix 20.4 to 22.7
- Susceptible to downy and powdery mildew, controlled with sprays
- Early season harvest, right after Somerset, good storage potential
- Clusters 0.210 - 0.229 lb., held well on vine 8/23 - 9/26, good storage potential
- Vines medium vigor
- Excellent winter hardiness



‘Venus’

- Deep purple, spicy, complex taste and very crisp, ripe at 18.4 to 21 brix,
- Susceptible to downy and powdery mildew, controlled with sprays
- Early season harvest, right after Somerset
- Clusters .229 lb., harvest period 8/23 - 9/11, good storage potential
- Vines medium vigor
- Medium/Excellent winter hardiness

One note on determining ripeness of seedless table grapes; ripeness does not depend on the same parameters as wine grapes. Harvest and ripeness is determined best by tasting, checking color and then a brix test if one wishes to record sugar levels at harvest. Tasting, tasting, and more tasting is the most important parameter in determining table grape ripeness.

Brix levels were taken on all of the grapes above to determine the ultimate sugar levels of all varieties. Brix levels begin to fall when quality begins to decline. With measurements over time, a time-line for harvest extension can be plotted.

For more information on growing grapes and to find a list of future grape training session, check out the following web sites:

- Wisconsin Grape Growers Association web site: <http://wigrapes.org>
- University of Wisconsin – Madison: <http://universitydisplaygardens.com>
- University of Wisconsin – Madison: <http://www.fruit.wisc.edu>