

GRAPE VARIETIES FOR OHIO

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In Ohio the standard grape varieties include Concord, Catawba, Niagara and Delaware, in that order. These are all American type grapes which have proven to be best adapted to Ohio conditions. The Concord variety is the foundation of the unfermented grape juice industry including processed grape products. A considerable amount of wine is made from this variety and it serves to a limited extent as a table grape. Catawba has been and remains an outstanding variety for the making of wines and champagnes; Niagara and Delaware also are well adapted to this use.

In addition to these varieties, a considerable number of hybrid varieties have been suggested as having potential in the North Central and North East. Several varieties such as Fredonia and Sheridan have had limited recommendations for commercial plantings during the past 20 years. Yet, there is still only a scattering of these varieties throughout the state. The primary reasons may be found among the following: (1) They are not superior to Concord for unfermented or processed use, (2) they are less favorable than Catawba or Delaware for commercial wine use, (3) the extent that they can be grown and compete with other (California) grapes for table use is limited, (4) their cold hardiness or resistance to disease is not as great as the standard varieties. Still, one should not lose sight of the fact that a number of varieties with very desirable characteristics can be grown for commercial use, wholesale or roadside market, (provided there is a market) or for home use.

The goal in the breeding program has been to produce grapes with a range of maturity that possess good vigor and the cold hardiness of the native American type grape (*Vitis-labrusca*) but with as many of the desirable fruit characteristics as possible of both the European (*Vitis vinifera*) and American varieties.

There are, in addition to the American hybrids, another group of grapes called the "French hybrids." These hybrids are much newer to North America; the great majority having been introduced since the end of World War II. Thus, although there has been a limited testing by experiment stations and others, less is known about their adaptability to Ohio climatic conditions than their American counter parts.

The difference between the American hybrids and the French hybrids is fairly simple. A genetic cross between the wild type American grape (primarily *V. rupestris* and *V. lincecumii*) and the European species (*V. vinifera*) has resulted in the so-called French hybrid. These are generally referred to by number following the breeders name, as Seibel 1000. A genetic cross between the cultivated American grape (*V. labrusca*) and the European grape (*V. vinifera*) has produced most of the American hybrids.

The primary purpose for creating new hybrid grape varieties has been threefold: (1) to produce a grape with the highly desirable fruit characteristics of *V. vinifera*, the European grape, but (2) which will withstand temperate zone winters and (3) will have the necessary resistance to insects (phylloxera) and diseases (downy and powdery mildew, also black-rot). The French hybrids have been bred for their wine making qualities, although many are also superb table grapes. The lack of "foxiness" possessed

by most American varieties, results in a flavor more nearly like the European *Vinifera* wines. The flavor and aromas might be described as being more subtle or refined; more neutral. Another feature of the French hybrid varieties is their ability to produce good crops from secondary or tertiary buds. This has important commercial significance in the event of a frost or freeze. If the primary buds or its developing shoots and flower clusters are destroyed, secondary and tertiary buds could flower and develop into a crop.

With this brief background a listing of standard varieties as well as some of the more promising newer varieties is provided. In general, these are varieties that have varying degrees of cold hardiness and disease problems, but are worthy of standard recommendations or for trial plantings. For those who wish to grow "something a little different," the list includes some varieties that have not been fully tested under Ohio conditions but which have on occasion produced good quality grapes where hardiness restrictions are not too limiting.

STANDARD VARIETIES FOR OHIO *

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Color**</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Primary Use</u>
Concord	B	Mid season	Juice
Catawba	R	Late	Wine
Niagara	W	Mid season	"
Delaware	R	" "	"
Fredonia	B	Early	Juice

* - Arranged by varietal importance.

** - B = Blue or Black
W = White
R = Red

American Hybrid Varieties with Moderate to Good Climatic
Adaptation *

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Color**</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Primary Use</u>
Interlakin Seedless	W	V. Early	Table
Himrod	W	V. Early	" - Seedless
Van Buren	B	Early	"
Ontario	W	"	"
Schuyler	B	"	"
Seneca	W	E. Mid	"
Romulus	W	E. Mid	" - Seedless
Bath	B	E. Mid	"
Buffalo	B	E. Mid	"
Kendaia	B	" "	"
Naples	R	Mid Season	"
Captivator	R	" "	"
Steuben	B	" "	"
Bokay	W	" "	" Wine
Blue Eye	B	" "	" "
N. Y. 18080	B	" "	"
Alden	B	" "	"
Yates	R	Late	" "
Sheridan	B	"	"
G. Muscat	W	"	"

* - In order of maturity.

** - B = Blue or Black
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French hybrids judged to have moderate climatic adaptation and cold hardiness.*

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Color**</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Primary Use</u>
Seibel 5279	W	V. Early	Wine - Table
Baco #1	B	E. Mid	"
Seibel 10878	B	Mid season	"
Seyve Villard 12375	W	" "	"
Coudurc 7120	B	Late	"

* - In order of maturity

** - B = Blue or Black
W = White
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American and French Hybrid varieties with limited climatic adaptation or inadequate evaluation.

French Hybrids

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Color</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Primary Use</u>
Coudurc 17	B	Late Mid	Wine
Seibel 7053	B	E. Mid	"
Seibel 9110		Mid	" - Table
Foch	B	E. Mid	"
Seibel 9549	B		
Seibel 10096	B		
Seyve Villard 14287	B		
Seyve Villard 5276			
Seibel 8745			
Seibel 1000			
Seibel 5898			

American Hybrids

Canada Muscat	W	Late	Wine
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