

Montana State University Horticulture Farm



Vineyard Variety List

Vineyard Est. 2010

VARIETY	DESCRIPTION	COLOR	USE	USDA HARDINESS	HARVEST SEASON	GROWTH HABIT	VIGOR
Beta	Extremely winter-hardy, very dependable producer. Grown in a variety of soils but must have good drainage. Shelter from winter winds recommended. Grown mainly for fruit production in home gardens, as it is aesthetically pleasing with bold summer foliage, showy fruit, and twisted trunks. Best used for juice, jams, and jellies – rarely used in wines.	Blue, Black	Juice, jelly, wine	3	Early season	Trailing	Vigorous
Kay Grey	Very productive, disease resistant vines. Produces medium to large, very firm, white slip-skin grapes with a mild foxy flavor. Kay Grey can make a neutral white table wine and is most commonly used for blending. Flavor carries depending on climate from labrusca to fruity.	White	Table, basket, dessert, wine	3	Early season	Trailing	Very vigorous
St. Croix	Sweet bluish-red grape that makes an excellent table grape, is also great for red wine. Very winter hardy vines with little or no winter injury, vigorous growth, good resistance to powdery mildew and black rot. Be sure to pick the grapes before they are fully ripe or you will miss out on full flavor – watch for fruit to turn a darker color. St. Croix makes a medium to full-bodied, dry, deep red wine with soft tannins and good fruit aromas, with currant and other dried fruit flavor qualities.	Red	Wine	3	Early season	Semi- trailing	Very vigorous
Valiant	Very winter hardy, surviving temperatures down to -35°F with little or no winter injury. Very productive and an annual bearer. Small compact clusters and berries with low acidity and high sugar, ripening in late August. Tolerates a wide	Blue, black	Juice, jelly, wine	3	Early season	Trailing	Vigorous

	range of soil conditions but must have good drainage. Makes red wine, juice, or jelly.						
Bluebell	Small Concord-type variety, winter hardy to -30°F. A blue seeded table grape, very fruity and mildly labrusca flavored. Prefect for red juice, jams, and jellies. Ripens 2-3 weeks earlier than Concord.	Blue, black	Juice, jelly	3	Mid-season	Trailing	Vigorous
Elvira	Vigorous and hardy, produces medium white berries that ripen with Concord. Tolerates a wide range of soils but must have good drainage. Absence of cultural problems makes this variety recommended for difficult growing areas. Flavor makes a good crisp white wine that pairs well with roast duck or wild game.	White	Wine	3	Mid-season	Trailing	Very vigorous
Worden	Blue-black variety with medium to large clusters and berries. Vine is vigorous and hardy, mildew resistant, and never needs winter protection. Slip-skin grapes are excellent for fresh eating. Also makes juice or jelly.	Blue, black	Table, basket, dessert	4	Early season	Trailing	Vigorous
Concord	The most famous American grape with vigorous, hardy, and productive vines that produce medium-sized clusters bearing large blue-black berries. Concord grapes are tough skinned, flavorful, and highly aromatic – an all-purpose grape use to make jelly, juice, soft drinks, and candy. Used for kosher wines or as a varietal or blender for sweet wines.	Blue, black	Juice, jelly, table, basket, dessert, wine	4	Mid-season	Trailing	Vigorous
Edelweiss	Vigorous variety with large, loose clusters of pale-green slip-skin berries with high sugar content. Early picking is essential for wine as when completely ripe it has a very strong labrusca flavor. Strong resistance to fungus, winter hardy down to -35°F.	White	Wine, table, dessert	4	Early season	?	Vigorous

Marechal Foch	Very early-ripening black grape with small berries. Vines are hardy with medium vigor and production. Marechal Foch can be made into a variety of wines ranging from a light red to more extracted wine with intense dark purple color and black fruit flavor, and a unique varietal character, to a sweet fortified port-style wine.	Blue, black	Wine	4	Early season	Semi-trailing	Medium
Fredonia	Close relative of Concord but ripens ~2 weeks earlier. Winter hardy, produces very large blue-black berries. Valued for both table grape production and wine. If carefully pruned, vigor and production may approach that of Concord.	Blue, black	Juice, jelly, table, basket, dessert	4	Early season	Trailing	Medium
St. Pepin	Produces medium oval white berries with a fruity flavor. Very winter hardy. Must be planted next to other grape varieties that bloom at the same time because it requires cross-pollination. Makes a fruity Riesling-style white wine with a mild labrusca flavor. Due to its winter hardiness and low acidity, can be made into ice wine in the north.	White	Wine	4	Early season	Semi-trailing	Vigorous
Swenson Red	Produces medium to large non-slip-skin firm meaty grapes in long and distinctive dumbbell-shaped clusters. Red to blue in color. Color may vary with nighttime temperature – may be blue where nights are cool and green where nights are hot. Winter hardy to -30°F, ripens 21-30 days before Concord. Makes an excellent dessert variety, as well as white wine with citrus notes.	Red	Table, basket, dessert, wine	4	Mid-season	Trailing	Vigorous
Van Buren	Concord-type table grape with average size purplish-black berries. Slip-skin berries with foxy flesh, translucent and sweet. Grows well even in poor soil. Ripens 3-4 weeks before Concord. Cold-hardy to -20°F.	Blue, black	Table, basket, dessert	4	Early season	Trailing	Vigorous

Aurore	White to pink variety that is vigorous, ripens about 1 month before Concord. Yield can equal or surpass Concord. Often used as a blending agent or base for sparkling wines. Alone it makes a fruity white wine that is great with seafood and poultry. Should be left off oak, tends to oxidize if not handled properly during wine making.	White	Wine	5	Early season	Trailing	Vigorous
De Chaunac	Very productive and vigorous red wine variety. Wines are fruity and balanced with low to mild tannin content. Sometimes used as a blending component in tannin-rich bulk wines. Can make a medium to full-bodied Beaujolais-style wine when aged in oak. Pairs well with steak, game, and beef stews.	Blue, black	Wine	5	Mid-season	Semi-upright	Vigorous
Seyval Blanc	Yellow-white variety with large, compact clusters of medium berries. Medium winter hardiness, ripens with Concord. Excellent white wine variety with a characteristic citrus element in aroma and taste. Wine has attractive aromas of apricots, peaches, and nectarines, but thin-bodied. Pairs well with appetizers, fish, salads, garlic dishes, and cheeses such as dill Havarti, tangy goat cheese, and soft cheeses with herbs.	White	Wine	5	Mid-season	Semi-upright	Medium
Vignoles	Small, compact bunches of white grapes with high sugar and acid content when mature. Highly susceptible to Botrytis rot. Moderately winter hardy down to -15°F. Wines are balanced and fruity but can be used for dry and off-dry wines as well. Can make ice wine in cold climates.	White	Wine, dessert	5	Late-season	Upright	Medium
Vanessa	Produces medium-sized clusters of large bright red berries. Moderate bloom, firm flesh, and crisp textured berries. Mildly aromatic and considered among the best and hardiest of red seedless grapes.	Red	Table, dessert, jam, juice	5	Early season	Trailing	Medium

