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Descriptive Listing of
Grape Varieties



FOSTER
NURSERY COMPANY
INCORPORATED
FREDONIA, NEW YORK

Member
American Association of Nurserymen
New York State Nurserymen's Association
Western New York Nurserymen's Association

As the many varieties of grapes on our list may be confusing we are describing here the best table grapes or garden varieties.

The varieties not described here are primarily wine grapes. We will be glad to furnish description of any of these on request.

RED VARIETIES

AGAWAM is one of the older red varieties. It is a strong vigorous vine. The fruit is large and of very good quality. Bunches are large and compact. Agawam ripens about a week after Concord. It is also used for wine.

CACO has been on the market for about 20 years. It is a very vigorous vine. It is not a heavy bearer, but the fruit is of exceptionally good quality. It ripens to a delicate pink about a week after Concord. Although the bunch is small it is compact and the berries are large.

CATAWBA, Late, has been widely known as an excellent wine grape. It is also a very good table grape. Vine is vigorous and hardy. The fruit is medium size. The bunches are medium to large. Catawba needs about two weeks longer growing season than Concord.

DELAWARE, Early. Although the berry is small, it is of excellent quality. The bunches are medium size and fairly compact. The vine is medium hardy. Delaware is about one week earlier than Concord.

LINDLEY is a very strong vine. Canes are long and numerous. Although it is not a heavy bearer the quality of the fruit makes up for the lack of quantity. It has in our opinion the best quality of any red grape. Berries are large, bunches small. Fruit keeps very well picked, or on the vine. It is about two weeks earlier than Concord.

WHITES

NIAGARA is the old standby of the white varieties. The vine is a strong and vigorous grower. The berries are large and excellent quality. The bunches are large and compact. Ripens a few days later than Concord. Niagara is also widely used for wine.

GOLDEN MUSCAT was named for its color and muscat flavor. The vine is vigorous, productive; the clusters are very large, tapering, single-shouldered, and compact; the berries are large, oval, juicy, tender, sweet vinous and aromatic. Requires season about 10 days longer than that of Concord.

ONTARIO comes in season before its parent Winchell, hitherto the best early green grape. Bunches and berries are large and more attractive in appearance, and its vines are more vigorous and more productive. Ontario and Portland are becoming the standard early green grapes in eastern America.

PORTLAND holds first place among grapes as an early green variety for the market. The vine is very vigorous, hardy, productive and healthy. The variety is remarkable for its luxuriant and persistent foliage. Bunches and berries are larger than those of any other early green grape. In soils where vine lacks vigor, Portland should be grafted onto Clinton or other vigorous stocks.

SENECA is almost a pure vinifera, ripening with Ontario. The bunches are of medium size, tapering, compact; berries oval and yellow. The texture is firm like that of a true vinifera, melting and tender, while the flavor is sweet, vinous and aromatic. The skin can be eaten with the berry. The vine is vigorous and productive. Seneca is highly recommended for dessert. Requires spraying to prevent mildew.

Fall
INTERLAKEN SEEDLESS is a promising seedless grape for the eastern United States. Its medium sized clusters are well filled with berries about the size of Delaware. The fruit ripens to a rich golden yellow color. At Geneva it ripens about September 1st or a full month before Concord. The fruit is very sweet and the flavor blends that of Ontario and Thompson Seedless. The flesh that of Golden Muscat, Seneca, and Delaware in hardiness. Temperatures of 20°F may be expected to injure the wood of Interlaken Seedless. We put this variety on the market for the first time in the fall of 1952.

BLUE

CONCORD is known by all. Hundreds of acres of Concord are grown in many sections of the country for unfermented grape juice. It is also an excellent table or garden grape. Quality is excellent. Berries are large. The bunch is also large and compact. The vine is a strong, vigorous grower. In Western New York it ripens in the latter part of September.

CONCORD SEEDLESS probably a sport of the Concord. Fruit resembles Concord in color and flavor but the clusters and berries are small. Occasionally seed is present but usually berries are seedless. Has possibilities for pie-stock.

FREDONIA is a good early black grape. The vine is vigorous, hardy and productive if not pruned too severely. Clusters are medium in size, cylindrical and compact; berries are large and round; skin is thick and tough; flesh is juicy, solid but tender; very good. Fredonia has become our leading early black grape.

STEUBEN, Its blue-black fruit ripens a day or two after Concord, or October 1st at Geneva. It bears long tapering clusters which are compact and often shouldered or double. The berries are of medium size and have a very heavy bloom. The flavor is sweet and free from foxiness but has a distinctive spicy tang. The skin is tough and the variety keeps very well in cold storage. The vines are vigorous, productive and hardy. A full crop of fruit was borne by Stuben in 1943 after exposure to 20°F the preceding winter. Blackrot has been reported in areas subject to this disease.

VAN BUREN is the most promising very early black grape introduced. Cluster medium to large, compact. The berry is about the size of Concord which it resembles very much. Equal if not superior to Concord in quality. The vine is exceptionally strong and vigorous and has stood 25° below zero at Fredonia, without injury. It ripens a good two weeks before Concord. Van Buren is also very productive. In 12 years here we have never had a poor crop on this variety.

WORDEN is one of the older early blue grapes. It is of very good quality. It is too thin skinned to ship well. It is a good bearer. The vine is strong and vigorous. It ripens a week or ten days earlier than Concord.
