

**Table Grape Varieties for New England**  
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#### Seedless Table Grape Cultivar Evaluation 2010-2015

Farmers and growers that sell agricultural crops directly to the consumers are looking for new crops to expand their marketing opportunities. The purpose of this project was to look at seedless table grape varieties to see which varieties are adaptable to southern New Hampshire growing condition during the first three to four years after planting.

Fifteen different seedless table grape varieties were planted in the spring of 2010 and the sixteenth variety was planted in spring of 2011. Ten vines of each variety were planted, eight feet between vines and eight feet between rows. The trellis was constructed in 2010 and constructed for training the grape vines in the Vertical Shoot Positioned (VSP) system. The VSP has the grapes at the bottom of the canopy and then the shoots grow towards the sky, vertically. Shoots are held upright by using catch wires that keep the shoots close to the trellis system. During the first four years, all varieties were adaptive to the VSP system, however, there are concerns that some of the varieties may be too vigorous in the future.

During winter months daily temperatures were recorded. Then each spring the seedless table grape variety was reviewed for survival in winter conditions, the amount of winter die-back and winter bud survival. Two varieties did not survive the New Hampshire conditions (Einset and Suffolk Red). Three other varieties were slow or weak growing in their first three or four years (Canadice, Vanessa, and Summerset Seedless), however all three cultivars are very good to excellent in flavor.

The date of harvest, pounds of fruit harvested, and soluble solids (sugar brix) were recorded on those varieties that started to produce marketable fruit during the first four years. Four varieties surfaced to be productive during the fourth and fifth year after planting (Reliance, Marquis, Thomcord, and Concord Seedless). However, this is based just on the beginning of the productive life to grape vines and needs to be continually evaluated over the next five or more years for a realistic evaluation. Finally, we will evaluate which grape varieties customers preferred and found very little to no difference in customer choice with a limited number of varieties.

This Seedless Table Grape Cultivar Evaluation Grown on Vertical Shoot Positioned (VSP) Training System project was supported by a Farmer/Rancher Project grant from the Northeast SARE. Also, the New England Vegetable and Berry Growers Association support the project with a 2010 Research Grant.

## Seedless Table Grape Cultivar Evaluation

| Merrimack, New Hampshire   |                |       |              |       |                |       |        |                     |        |
|--|----------------|-------|--------------|-------|----------------|-------|--------|---------------------|--------|
| George Hamilton, Extension Field Specialist, UNH Cooperative Extension |                |       |              |       |                |       |        |                     |        |
| Cultivars  | Cluster Weight |       | Berry Weight |       | Soluble Solids |       |        | Production per Vine |        |
| Cultivars Name (color/year planted)                                    | grams          | grams | grams        | grams | brixs          | brixs | brixs  | pounds              | pounds |
|  | 2013           | 2014  | 2013         | 2014  | 2013           | 2014  | 2015   | 2013                | 2015   |
|  | 1-Sep          | 8-Sep | 1-Sep        | 8-Sep | 1-Sep          | 8-Sep | 10-Sep | Sep                 | Sep    |
| <b>Red:</b>  |                |       |              |       |                |       |        |                     |        |
| Canadice (Red 2010)  | 130            | 153   | 1.8          | 1.5   | 18.7           | 17.2  | 21.0   | 2.8                 | 3.3    |
| Einset (Red 2010)  | -              | -     | -            | -     | -              | -     | -      | -                   | -      |
| Reliance (Red 2010)  | 191            | 198   | 2.3          | 2.1   | 20.7           | 18.8  | 22.0   | 9.2                 | 11.7   |
| <i>Somerset Seedless (Red 2011)</i>                                    | -              | 86    | -            | 1.5   | -              | 20.0  | 22.0   | -                   | 7.0    |
| Suffolk Red (Red 2010)   | -              | 81    | -            | 2.1   | -              | 21.5  | -      | -                   | 1.0    |
| Vanessa (Red 2010)   | 66             | 159   | 1.5          | 2.9   | 17.3           | 17.4  | 18.0   | 1.1                 | 2.2    |
| <b>Blue/Black:</b>   |                |       |              |       |                |       |        |                     |        |
| Concord Seedless (Blue/Black 2010)                                     | 105            | 138   | 1.4          | 2.3   | 22.8           | 17.5  | 17.0   | 4.6                 | 8.2    |
| Glenora (Blue/Black 2010)  | 71             | 66    | 2.0          | 2.1   | -              | 18.4  | 18.4   | 0.6                 | -      |
| Jupiter (Blue/Black 2010)  | 129            | 243   | 4.2          | 4.1   | 18.0           | 14.5  | 18.0   | 2.3                 | 6.8    |
| Mars (Blue/Black 2010)   | 107            | 236   | 3.7          | 3.4   | 15.0           | 15.2  | 20.0   | 2.4                 | 12.9   |
| Thomcord (Blue/Black 2010)   | 124            | 257   | 2.4          | 2.5   | 15.0           | 16.5  | 19.0   | 5.5                 | 10.7   |
| Venus (Blue/Black 2010)  | 60             | 256   | 3.3          | 2.3   | 22.7           | 19.0  | 19.0   | 0.2                 | 1.9    |
| <b>White:</b>  |                |       |              |       |                |       |        |                     |        |
| Himrod (White 2010)  | 70             | 83    | 2.4          | 1.7   | 16.0           | 18.6  | 20.0   | 1.1                 | 7.1    |
| Interlaken (White 2010)  | 115            | 154   | 2.5          | 1.9   | 18.0           | 20.2  | 20.0   | 0.5                 | 2.3    |
| Lakemont (White 2010)  | 89             | 192   | 1.5          | 2.1   | 14.7           | 17.5  | 20.0   | 0.5                 | 1.1    |
| Marquis (White 2010)   | 192            | 187   | 2.5          | 4.0   | 15.7           | 18.5  | 21.0   | 9.1                 | 11.1   |

227 grams per 1/2 pound

No total harvest yields were recorded in 2014.

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