

'Beta'



University of North Dakota

Synonyms: N/A

Pedigree: 'Concord' x 'Carver' (*V. riparia*).

Origin: Minnesota. Bred by Louis Suelter in 1881 (4, 5).

Type: Interspecific hybrid (*V. riparia*; *V. labrusca*; *V. vinifera*) (4).

Color: Black

Berry: Small to medium; slipskin; tangy taste of a wild grape (5).

Cluster: Fairly compact.

Viticultural Characteristics: Very vigorous; semi-procumbent growth habit (1, 2). Domoto (1) also stated that cluster thinning is not needed.

Disease/Pests: Susceptible to foliar phylloxera and slightly susceptible to powdery mildew (2).

Wine Quality and Characteristics: Berries are small and acidic, not suited for winemaking (1). Wine from 'Beta' tends to be quite poor, but the jelly is very flavorful (3).

Season: Midseason (1)

Cold Hardiness: Very hardy (below -20° F) (1)

Use: Table, juice or jelly. May also be used as an arbor vine as vines can grow 20 feet long (5).

Notes: For decades, this cultivar was the most widely grown grape in Minnesota (3). This cross was named after Louis Suelter's wife and pronounced "Bett-uh", but pronunciation of "Beta" is accepted and has become standard (2).

Literature Cited

1. Domoto, P. 2008. Grape cultivars for consideration in Iowa. *On*: <http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/info/pdf/cultivars08.pdf>.
2. Hemstad, P., University of Minnesota. *Personal communication* (2007).
3. Hoover, E., and P. Hemstad. 2000. Growing grapes for home use. University of Minnesota Extension Publication F0-1103.
4. National Grape Registry (NGR) website: <http://ngr.ucdavis.edu/>. Supported by University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources, Services, and National Clonal Germplasm Repository of the USDA Agricultural Research Service.
5. Whealy, K. 1993. Fruit, Berry and Nut Inventory. Seed Saver Publications, Decorah, IA. p. 331.