‘Chancellor’

Iowa State University

Synonyms: Seibel 7053 (2, 7).

Pedigree: Seibel 5163 x Seibel 880 (2, 7).

Origin: Aubenas, Ardeche, France by Albert Seibel (2).

Introduction: Introduced in United States in 1940’s; and Canada in 1946 (2).

Release: Named in 1970 by the Finger Lakes Wine Growers Association (5).

Type: Interspecific hybrid (7).

Color: Black

Berry: Round or slightly oval; skin jet black and very firm; flesh not juicy (2).

Cluster: Medium in size; cylindrical in shape; fairly compact and winged (2, 5).

Viticultural Characteristics: Domoto (4) described ‘Chancellor’ as being moderately vigorous and having a semi-procumbent growth habit. He adds that it requires cluster thinning as it often develops three to four clusters per shoot. Early bud break makes it vulnerable to late frosts, but it is capable of producing a crop off secondary buds (5). One hundred days from bloom to harvest (3).

Disease/Pests: ‘Chancellor’ is rated as highly susceptible to crown gall, downy mildew (including the clusters), Phomopsis cane and leaf spot and powdery mildew; and is slightly susceptible to black rot and Botrytis bunch rot (1, 3, 4, 8). Bordelon et al (1), Dami et al (3) and Domoto (4) consider it highly susceptible to crown gall, however Reisch et al (8) rates it as moderately susceptible. Moderately susceptible to anthracnose (1, 4) It is sensitive to injuries from sulfur (1, 3, 4, 8) and copper applied under cool, slow drying conditions will likely cause injury (1, 3).

Wine Quality and Characteristics: In terms of wine quality, ‘Chancellor’ is considered among the better French-American varieties (8). It produces a medium bodied red wine which is capable of aging well (9). It tends to be very colored and care should be taken not to extract too much color from the skins (6).

Season: Early Midseason (3, 9).

Cold Hardiness: Hardy (-15° to -20° F) (3, 4).

‘Chancellor’

Use: Wine

Notes: Reisch et al. (8) noted that planting might be more widespread if the clusters were less susceptible to downy mildew and the foliage less susceptible to powdery mildew.

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