

'Mars'



Iowa State University

Synonyms: Arkansas 1508, 'Mars Seedless' (9).

Pedigree: 'Island Belle' x Arkansas 1339 (8, 9).

Origin: Clarksville, Arkansas. University of Arkansas Breeding Program. Developed by James N. Moore (9).

Cross/Selection/Test: Cross made in 1972. One seedling was selected in 1975 and named Ark.1508 (7).

Release: 1984. Plant patent PP5680 given in 1986 (8).

Type: Interspecific hybrid (includes *V. labrusca* and *V. vinifera*) 'Mars' is derived from 'Buffalo', 'Alden', 'Ontario', 'Ribier', 'Russian Seedless', 'Vergennes', 'Zinfandel' (9).

Color: Begins crimson and turns deep blue at maturity (11).

Berry: Moore (8) described the berry as round, medium-large and uniform in size (3 g/berry average). There is a medium thick skinskin (typical of eastern table grapes) (6) which are resistant to cracking and do not shatter (shell) from the clusters, maintaining well on the vine after maturity. Moore (7) indicated a sweet, juicy melting flesh which has a *labrusca* flavor and that it is seedless, having very small vestigial seeds which are unnoticeable when eaten.

Cluster: Short and cylindrical, medium in size; compact and well filled with a slight taper, rarely with shoulder (9). Average cluster weight at four Iowa State University research sites in 2007 was .40 lb (4, 5).

Viticultural Characteristics: 'Mars' is very vigorous (3) and with a procumbent growth habit (3). Bud break is midseason, it is productive on secondary buds and cluster thinning is needed as vines are very productive (3, 9). Moore (9) added that the canes mature their wood early and enter winter in a well-hardened condition. Eighty days from bloom to harvest (2). Moderately susceptible to injury from 2,4-D and dicamba (3).

Disease/Pests: 'Mars' is rated as being slightly susceptible to anthracnose (1, 3), black rot (1, 3, 11), Botrytis bunch rot (1, 3, 11) crown gall (1, 3, 11), downy mildew (1, 3, 4, 11), Phomopsis cane and leaf spot (1, 3, 4) and powdery mildew (1, 3, 11). Domoto (3) reported that it is not sensitive to injuries from sulfur or copper applications.

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Wine Quality and Characteristics: Not typically used as a wine grape.

Season: Early (between mid-August to early September at four Iowa State University test sites in 2007) (4, 5).

Cold Hardiness: Moderately hardy (-10° F to -15° F) (3). At Fayetteville, Arkansas, 'Mars' has not been damaged by temperatures of -14.8° F (7).

Use: Wine, table, juice, jelly.

Notes: Among the most cold hardy of the seedless grapes.

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