

‘Somerset Seedless’



Tom Plocher

Synonyms: 12-7-98 (4).

Pedigree: E.S. 5-3-64 X ‘Petit Jewel’ (3, 4).

Origin: Osceola, Wisconsin. Bred by Elmer Swenson (3, 4).

Release: 2002 (2).

Type: Interspecific hybrid (including *V. labrusca*; *V. riparia*; and *V. vinifera* and other small amounts of American *Vitis* species) (1).

Color: Red (2, 3).

Berry: Medium sized (1.5 g to 2 g); seedless; adherent skin and great strawberry like flavor (4). Berries are edible at pink stage in August, but are much sweeter and more flavorful if left to ripen to full red (2).

Cluster: Small to medium sized (.22 to .44 lb) (3); compact (2).

Viticultural Characteristics: Moderately vigorous with a procumbent growth habit (4).

Disease/Pests: Quite disease resistant, susceptible to downy mildew if left unsprayed (2).

Wine Quality and Characteristics: Not typically used for wine.

Season: Early (August and early September in Minnesota) (2, 4).

Cold Hardiness: Hardy to about -30° F (2, 4).

Use: Seedless table grape.

Notes: Earliest high quality seedless grape available. Grown all over Baltic Sea region, as its one of the very few grapes that ripens reliably under their conditions. The seedless character follows this progression: ‘Thompson Seedless’ → ‘Himrod’ → ‘Canadice’ → ‘Petite Jewel’ → ‘Somerset’ (1).

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Literature Cited

1. Hart, M., Mount Ashwabay Vineyard and Orchard, Bayfield, WI. *Personal communication* (2008).
2. Marshall, J., Great River Vineyard and Nursery, Lake City, MN. *Personal communication* (2008).
3. 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.
4. Plocher, T., *co-author of* Northern Winework. *Personal communication* (2008).