

'Swenson Red'



University of Minnesota

Synonyms: Elmer Swenson 439 (4).

Pedigree: Minnesota #78 ('Beta' x 'Witt') x Seibel 11803 (4, 7).

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

Cross/Selection/Introduction: Crossed in 1962; selected in 1967 (4, 8).

Release: Released jointly by Elmer Swenson and the University of Minnesota in 1978 (3).

Type: Interspecific hybrid (*includes V. labrusca and V. riparia*) (4, 8, 9, 10).

Color: Red (6).

Berry: Swenson (7) described the berry as large; round to slightly ovate; dark red to lavender with a light bloom. Reisch (6) added that it may turn reddish-blue if allowed to remain on the vine. Swenson noted the flavor is rich, fruity but non-*labrusca* in character. He considered the flesh very firm and meaty and the non-skinskin thin and edible. According to Swenson (8), this cultivar is reminiscent of a European table grape. It is capable of reaching high sugar levels (2, 8).

Cluster: Medium in size; conical; slightly loose to very compact, with a single shoulder (7).

Viticultural Characteristics: Vigorous (1, 5, 7, 8) and with a procumbent growth habit (1). Tends to be overly productive; cluster thinning may improve fruit maturity (7).

Disease/Pests: 'Swenson Red' is rated as highly susceptible to downy mildew; moderately susceptible to Botrytis bunch rot and powdery mildew; and slightly susceptible to black rot (1) and crown gall (6). It's uncertain whether it is susceptible to anthracnose, crown gall, Eutypa dieback or if it is sensitive to injury from sulfur or copper applications (1, 6).

Wine Quality and Characteristics: Can make a fair to good quality, very distinctive white wine. Fermentation on the skins is not recommended (8).

Season: Midseason (Early to mid-September) (5).

'Swenson Red'

Cold Hardiness: Hardy (-15° F) (1, 5) but less hardy than the other Swenson cultivars (5). Vines have survived -25 to -30° F, without protection in the upper Midwest, but are not considered hardy enough to fruit well without cover (8).

Use: Table, wine.

Notes: Primarily a seeded table grape, but suitable for wine (5). Keeps well in cold storage (7).

Literature Cited

1. Domoto, P. 2008. 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. Nonnecke, G. 2002. Grape cultivars for Iowa. *Presented at Iowa Grape Growers Conference*, January 26, 2002. *On:* <http://viticulture.hort.iastate.edu/info/pdf/grapecultivars.pdf>.
6. Reisch, B.I., D.V. Peterson, R.M. Pool and M.H. Martens. 1993. Table grape varieties for cool climates. Information Bulletin 234. Cornell Cooperative Extension. *On:* <http://www.nysaes.cornell.edu/hort/faculty/reisch/bulletin/table/tableindex2.html>.
7. Swenson, E., P. Pierquet, and C. Stushnoff. 1980. 'Edelweiss' and 'Swenson Red' grapes. *HortScience*. Vol. 15 (1):100.
8. Swenson, E., P. Pierquet, and C. Stushnoff. 1977. 'Edelweiss' and 'Swenson Red': Two new Minnesota grape varieties. *Minnesota Grape Growers Association Yearbook*. P. 11.
9. Swenson, E. 1991. The Minnesota #78 grape-lady of mystery. *Fruit Varieties Journal* Vol. 45 (1):6-8.
10. Swenson, E. 1985. Wild *Vitis riparia* from Northern U.S. and Canada-breeding source for winter hardiness in cultivated grapes-a background of the Swenson hybrids. *Fruit Varieties Journal* 39(1):28-31.