Grape Variety Research Experience in Nebraska

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In the late 1800s to early 1900s there were many plantings of grapes and other fruits by immigrants to Nebraska.
1910- ca. 5000 Acres in 11 eastern Nebraska counties

1919- Prohibition (amendment to U.S. Constitution)

1933- Prohibition repealed; management of alcoholic beverages placed under states’ control
1985- The Nebraska Farm Wineries Act was passed
- maximum of 50,000 gallons/year
- over 15,000 gallons – must go through a distributor
  (changed to 30,000 gallons in 2003)
1994- Cuthills Vineyards opens
  ca. 10 acres of commercial grapes in Nebraska
June, 1997- University of Nebraska Viticulture Program initiated

1997- Two bills passed by Nebraska Legislature:
- allowing shipping of Nebraska wines
- allowing consumption on premises
September, 1997- James Arthur Vineyards opens

May, 1998- University of Nebraska Viticulture research plantings begun in Nemaha, Pawnee and Otoe counties

September, 1999- Lovers Leap Vineyards opens
April 2000- “On-Vineyard” cooperative research begun at James Arthur Vineyards by the University of Nebraska Viticulture Program
Ten Years Ago
-no wineries in Nebraska
-ca. 10 acres of commercial grapes
Today in Nebraska: