Characteristics of Cultivars in the ISU 2002 Grape Cultivar by Management System Trial
‘Maréchal Foch’

1920 French release.

- Season: early
- Vine vigor: low vigor, but variable.
- Hardiness: “hardy”
- Bud break: very early – frost prone.
- Growth habit: semi-procumbent
- Moderately productive on 2° buds.
- M-susc. to black rot & powdery mildew.
- Sensitive to sulfur fungicides.
- M-susc. to 2,4-D; susc. to dicamba.
- Requires basal shoot thinning.
- Clusters are small & tight; bunch rot can be a problem.
- With early ripening, birds can be a problem.
- Does not produce high yields.
- Suited for most areas of Iowa.
‘Frontenac’

1996 Univ. of Minnesota release.

- Season: mid-season
- Vine vigor: vigorous
- Hardiness: “very hardy”
- Bud break: early mid-season.
- Growth habit: semi-procumbent
- Requires some shoot thinning.
- M-susc. to black rot, powdery mildew & Botrytis bunch rot.
- Canopy opens well w/ shoot positioning.
- Leaves relatively tolerant to 2,4-D, but berries are susc.; susc. to dicamba.
- Leaves are susc. to grape phylloxera.
- Clusters are loose; berry set can be light.
- Can be very productive; cluster thinning may be needed.
- Fruit quality is excellent, but high acidity at harvest is common.
- Suited for all regions of Iowa.
‘Cynthiana’ (‘Norton’)  

*Vitis aestivalis* selection

- Season: **late**
- Vine vigor: very vigorous
- Hardiness: “moderately hardy”
- Bud break: **late-season**.
- Growth habit: procumbent
- Vines are difficult to establish.
- Requires some shoot thinning and removing lateral shoots.
- Exhibits very good disease resistance.
- Very sensitive to sulfur fungicides.
- Susc. to 2,4-D.
- Clusters are small; berries contain high acids.
- Appears suited for only the warmest growing regions of Iowa.
- Has not been productive in ISU trials.
‘St. Croix’

1981 Elmer Swenson release.

- Season: early
- Vine vigor: very vigorous
- Hardiness: “very hardy”
- Bud break: mid-season
- Growth habit: semi-procumbent
- Prone to multiple bud break on spurs; requires shoot thinning & removing lateral shoots.
- M-susc. to downy & powdery mildew, & Botrytis bunch rot.
- Slightly susc. to 2,4-D; m-susc. to dicamba.
- Moderately productive on 2o buds.
- Produces medium-sized, tight clusters.
- Berry set can be light.
- Berries very thin skinned; subject to leaking.
- Suited for most growing regions of Iowa.
‘Chambourcin’

1963 French release
- Season: late
- Vine vigor: vigorous
- Hardiness: “cold tender”; productive on secondary buds.
- Bud break: very late
- Growth habit: semi-upright; suitable for training to a VSP system.
- V-susc. to crown gall & black rot; m-susc. to downy and powdery mildew.
- Exhibits good tolerance to 2,4-D & dicamba.
- Clusters are very large; requires cluster thinning.
- Vines are well established & productive at Armstrong & Southeast R&D Farms, but not at northern sites.
- Appears suited for only the warmest growing regions of Iowa.
‘Seyval blanc’

1930’s French release
- Season: mid-season
- Vine vigor: moderately vigorous
- Hardiness: “moderately hardy”
- Bud break: mid-season
- Growth habit: semi-upright; suitable for training to a VSP system.
- Susc. to powdery mildew & Botrytis bunch rot; m-susc. to black rot & downy mildew.
- Good tolerance to 2,4-D; susc. to dicamba.
- Slightly sensitive to copper sprays.
- Clusters are very large; requires cluster thinning.
- Vines are well established & productive at Armstrong & Southeast R&D Farms, but not at northern sites.
- Appears suited for southern growing regions of Iowa.
'La Crosse'

1983 Elmer Swenson release.
- Season: early
- Vine vigor: VERY VIGOROUS
- Hardiness: “hardy”
- Bud break: early mid-season.
- Growth habit: semi-upright w/ few tendrils; shoots lay down in a VSP system.
- Requires extensive basal shoot & lateral shoot thinning.
- G-tolerance to 2,4-D; susc. to dicamba.
- V-susc. to black rot & Botrytis bunch rot; m-susc. to downy & powdery mildew.
- Productive on 2º buds.
- Medium-small, tight clusters w/ thin-skinned berries, subject to leaking.
- Suited for most areas of Iowa.
‘Vignoles’

1949 French release.

- Season: mid-season
- Vine vigor: moderately vigorous.
- Hardiness: “Moderately hardy”.
- Bud break: late season.
- Growth habit: upright; suitable for training to a VSP system.
- Susc. to powdery mildew, Botrytis bunch rot; m-susc. to downy mildew.
- Good tolerance to 2,4-D & dicamba.
- Shoot lignification occurs very early.
- Moderately productive on 2° buds.
- Very tight, small clusters, with thick skinned berries.
- Berries can develop high sugars while retaining high acidity.
- Moderately productive in Iowa trials.
- Appears more suited for southern regions of Iowa.
'Traminette'

- Season: late mid-season
- Vine vigor: moderately vigorous.
- Hardiness: “Moderately hardy”.
- Bud break: mid-season.
- Growth habit: semi-upright; suitable for training to a VSP system.
- M-susc. to downy mildew.
- M-susc. to 2,4-D; susc. to dicamba.
- Shoot lignification occurs very late, not adapted to shorter growing seasons.
- Winter trunk injury can be a problem.
- Not very productive on 2⁰ buds.
- Suited for only the warmest growing regions of Iowa.
‘Edelweiss’

1978 Elmer Swenson / Univ. of MN. rel.

- Season: early
- Vine vigor: very vigorous
- Hardiness: “hardy”
- Bud break: very early– frost prone.
- Not productive on 2o buds.
- Growth habit: procumbent
- M-susc. to powdery mildew & Botrytis bunch rot.
- M-susc. to 2,4-D & dicamba.
- Large loose clusters, w/ medium to small berries.
- Young shoots very sensitive to “blow-out”.
- Develops a strong labrusca flavor when fully mature.
- Suited for most growing regions of Iowa.
- Does not tolerate high pH soils.
‘Reliance’

1982 Univ. of Arkansas release.
- Season: early
- Vine vigor: moderately vigorous
- Hardiness: “moderately hardy”; done well at Ames.
- Bud break: mid-season
- Growth habit: procumbent
- V-susc. to black rot, anthracnose & downy mildew; m-susce. to powdery mildew.
- M-susc. to 2,4-D & dicamba.
- Large clusters w/ m-sized berries.
- Berries are seedless, very thin skinned, & are of excellent quality.
- Very prone to berry drop & “shelling” in storage (GA sprays will reduce).
- Cluster thinning improves fruit quality.
- Requires leaf thinning to improve color.
- Moderately productive on 2° buds.
- Suited for S & C Iowa, for trial in N Iowa.
‘Mars’

1986 Univ. of Arkansas release.

- Season: mid-season
- Vine vigor: very vigorous
- Hardiness: “moderately hardy”, hardier than ‘Reliance’.
- Bud break: mid-season.
- Growth habit: procumbent
- Very good disease tolerance.
- M-susc. to 2,4-D & dicamba.
- Large seedless berries borne in m-sized clusters.
- Berries are slipskin w/ a mild labusca flavor.
- **Productive on 2º buds.**
- Requires cluster thinning.
- Can be extremely productive.
- Can be harvested over an extended period.
- Suited for S & C Iowa, trial in N Iowa.
‘Jupiter’

1998 Univ. of Arkansas release.

- Season: Early-season
- Vine vigor: moderately vigorous
- Hardiness: “moderately hardy”; Less hardy than ‘Reliance’; hardens-off slowly in the fall.
- Bud break: mid-season.
- Growth habit: procumbent
- V-susc. to powdery & downy mildew; m-susc. to black rot.
- M-susc. to 2,4-D & dicamba.
- Not productive on 2° buds.
- Produces m-large clusters w/ large seedless berries.
- Berries have a semi-crisp texture & adherent skin.
- Somewhat prone to berry drop.
- Requires cluster thinning.
- Suited for S Iowa, limited trial in C Iowa.

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‘Marquis’

1996 Cornell Univ. release
- Season: Early mid-season
- Vine vigor: Vigorous
- Hardiness: “moderately hardy”; Less hardy than ‘Reliance’; hardens-off slowly.
- Bud break: late mid-season.
- Growth habit: procumbent
- V-susc. to powdery mildew & anthracnose; m-susc. to black rot & downy mildew.
- Susc. to 2,4-D & dicamba.
- Not productive on 2º buds.
- Large clusters; large seedless berries w/ a melting texture & adherent skin.
- Holds well on the vine.
- May require cluster thinning.
- Suited for S Iowa, limited trial in C Iowa.
‘Vanessa’


- Season: Early-season
- Vine vigor: moderately vigorous
- Hardiness: “moderately hardy”; Less hardy than ‘Reliance’; hardens-off slowly.
- Bud break: late mid-season.
- Growth habit: procumbent
- V-susc. to black rot; m-susc. to powdery & downy mildew.
- V-susc. to 2,4-D & dicamba.
- Not productive on 2º buds.
- Produces med-sized seedless berries on med-sized clusters.
- Berries have a crisp, firm texture.
- Keeps well in cold storage.
- Suited for S Iowa, limited trial in C Iowa.