Everest Seedless™ Grape

A blue seedless table grape.

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Everest Seedless™ is an early to mid-season blue seedless table grape producing flavorful, very large seedless berries borne on large clusters.



Figure 1. Fruit clusters of Everest Seedless.
Photo credit: Jason Moore

ORIGIN

The seedless table grape, Everest Seedless (cultivar 'NY98.0228.02', Figure 1), was developed by the Grapevine Breeding and Genetics Program at Cornell AgriTech, Geneva, New York.

Prior to naming and release, Everest Seedless was known as selection number NY98.0228.02. It resulted from a cross made in 1998 between two numbered Cornell grape selections (Figure 2). Seedlings were first planted in 1999. It produced fruit in 2002 and was first propagated in 2004 for additional testing. Everest Seedless has 76 chromosomes, as do both parents, while most other cultivated grapevines have a normal chromosome number of 38. The doubling of its chromosome number results in its naturally large berry size.

DESCRIPTION

This new cultivar produces distinctly flavorful, very large seedless berries borne on large clusters. The vines are large and very productive, with moderate disease resistance. The berries are juicy with flavors similar to the well-known 'Concord', and ripen early to mid-season, ca. Sept. 15-30 at Geneva, New York.

Most people are familiar with the distinctive flavors of 'Concord', but its fruit contain seeds. The 'Concord Seedless' cultivar is an alternative, but has small, sometimes hardened, seed traces, with small berries.

Everest Seedless berries and clusters are substantially larger than those of 'Concord'. While Everest Seedless is not as winter hardy as 'Concord', it is expected to grow well in most areas of the eastern United States known to be suitable for grape production.

CLIMATE ADAPTABILITY

Generally suitable for USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 5b and warmer.

MARKET & USE

It is anticipated that this new grape cultivar will be suitable for roadside stands, pick-your-own operations, and for backyard gardeners.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- *Date of bud break*. circa 3 days after 'Concord' (e.g. May 4, 2017).
- *Vine pruning weight*.
  - 1.8 to 3.3 lbs./vine (own-rooted)
  - 2.9 to 5.5 lbs./vine (grafted on Couderc 3309).
- *Fruit yields per vine.*
  - 30.4 lbs./vine (own-rooted)
  - 33 lbs./vine (grafted).
- *Cluster.* Average weight of 0.6 lb./cluster (own-rooted); 1.0 lb./cluster (grafted); Clusters of 'Concord' weigh 0.36 lb./cluster.
- *Berry.* Very large (weight ranging from 5.0 to 7.0 grams/berry); berries of 'Concord' weigh 3.2 grams/berry. *Berry texture*: melting, juicy.
- *Disease resistance*. Intermediate resistance to downy and powdery mildews.
- *Cold hardiness*. Generally suitable for USDA Plant Hardiness Zone 5b and warmer.

AVAILABILITY

The Center for Technology Licensing at Cornell University granted *Double A Vineyards*, Fredonia, New York, a limited exclusive license in the U.S. for 10 years. A plant patent has been granted by the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

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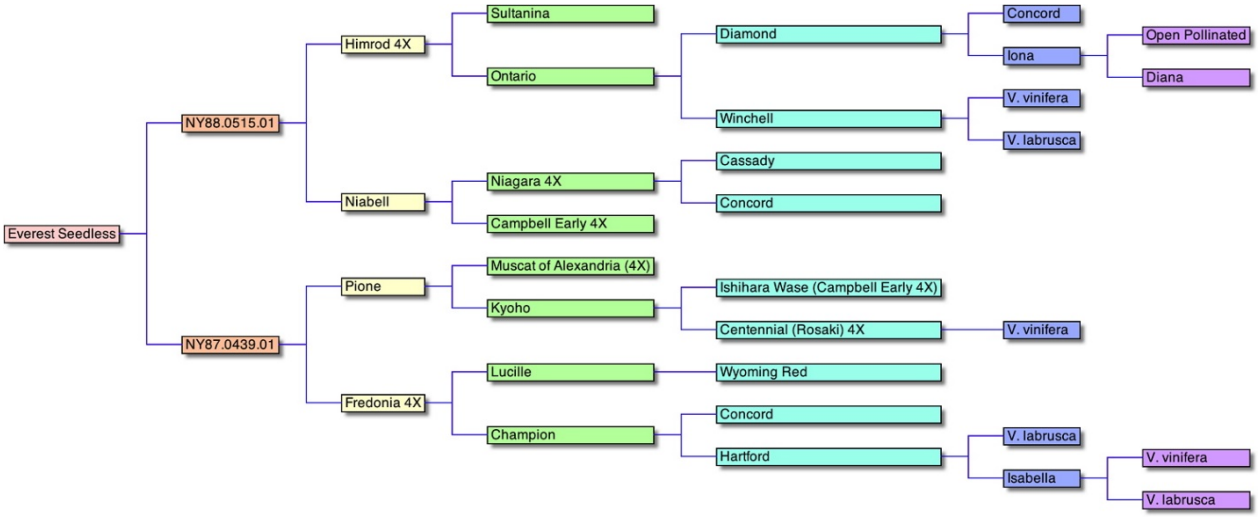


Figure 2. Pedigree of Everest Seedless

Acknowledgement: We thank M. Colizzi and A. Green for careful and thorough vineyard data collection.