

Available on the Internet at http://www.ext.vt.edu/pubs/viticulture/463-019/463-019.pdf

General Consideration of Varieties

- Will consistently produce high quality crops at your site
- Is in demand by existing wineries, has potential for future demand, or will be used in your own winery
- Crop value consistently exceeds cost of production

General Consideration of Vinifera Relative to Other Species/Hybrids

- Must be grafted to pest-tolerant rootstock
- As a group, vinifera are more susceptible to fungal pathogens
- · vinifera are more cold tender:
 - Native American spp > hybrids > V. vinifera
- vinifera grape prices roughly twice that of hybrid grape prices

Vitis Vinifera Relative to other Species/Hybrids

Must be grafted to pest tolerant rootstock





Chardonnay (vinifera)

· Strengths:

- Yields ave. 4.8 t/a at Winchester (clone #4)
- Demand for lower yielding clones, such as #95 and #96; softer demand for clones #4 and #5
- High fruit quality, adaptable cultivar
- Fair cold hardiness (MLTE -5F)

Weaknesses:

- Early bud break
- Susceptible to botrytis, powdery mildew and grapevine yellows.



Cabernet Sauvignon (vinifera)

· Strengths:

- Good demand
- Yields at Winchester ave. 4.5 t/a with clone #7, 2.8 t/a with clone #6. Both high quality
- Late bud break
- Good rot resistance

Weaknesses:

- Cold-tender (MLTE -7F); one of our most cold-sensitive cvs.
- Bunch stem necrosis



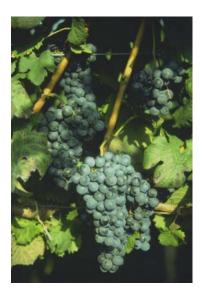
Cabernet Franc (vinifera)

· Strengths:

- Good demand
- Good rot resistance
- Cold hardiness superior to Cabernet Sauvignon
- Clones #1 and #214
- Softer tannins in fruit/wine compared with C. Sauvignon

· Weaknesses:

- Occasionally poor fruit set
- High incidence of leafroll virus



Merlot (red vinifera)

Strengths:

- High demand
- Excellent fruit quality

· Weaknesses:

- Cold tender
- Highly susceptible to bunch rot

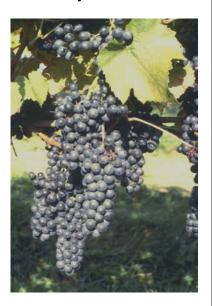
Petit Verdot (vinifera)

Strengths:

- Yields ave. 5.1 t/a at Winchester
- May be best used in blending
- Greater cold hardiness than Cabernet Sauvignon
- Generally high quality fruit, little rot

· Weaknesses:

- High acid and pH in some years
- Demand uncertain



Traminette (hybrid)

· Strengths:

- Good yields
- Excellent fruit quality
- Excellent cold hardines
- Good disease resistand

Weaknesses:

- Uncertain demand
- Limited commercial experience in VA



Norton (red American spp.)

Strengths:

- Cold hardy
- Good disease resistance
- Good for blending
- Increasing local interest

Weaknesses:

- Low yields
- Uncertain demand
- High pH and high TA



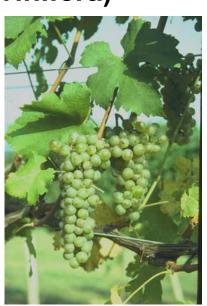
Viognier (vinifera)

· Strengths:

- Good demand
- Excellent fruit quality
- Good resistance to bunch rot
- Fair cold hardiness (MLTE -11F)

Weaknesses:

- Weak growth in some situations
- Yield ave. 2.9 t/a at Winchester
- Bud necrosis can limit yields (a blessing?)



Chambourcin (hybrid)

- Strengths:
 - Excellent quality
 - Good cold hardiness
- Weaknesses:
 - Uncertain demand



Vidal blanc (hybrid)

- Strengths:
 - Good cold hardiness
 - High yields
 - Late bud break
 - Good bunch rot resistance
- Weaknesses:
 - Overcropping
 - Susceptible to tomato & tobacco ringspot viruses



Other Varieties

Comment
Good – far superior to 'Seyval'
Good, niche market
Cold tender, perhaps with good clone
Good
Too rot prone
Too rot prone
Cold tender, perhaps with good clone
Too rot prone
Cold tender, perhaps with good clone

Other Considerations

- Table grapes?
 - Seeded vs. non-seeded (see my bulletin)
- "Alternative" wine grape varieties?
 - Some may do quite well, but go slowly until the market acceptance is developed