

yet in their infancy, their grape industries should continue to grow.

As shown by Table 4, the French-American hybrids being grown do not differ widely in any of the 5 states. As stated by one report, "Many cultivars are being tried but we will probably settle back to a few that have sufficient cold hardiness to withstand our winters."

Vinifera is expanding in Ohio. Predominant varieties are Cabernet Sauvignon, White Riesling and Pinot

Chardonnay. Just what the future will bring with these cultivars is still in doubt and will depend on the severity of our winters the next few years.

### References

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## Grape Cultivar Situation in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas

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There is a long history of interest and activity in grape growing in the four state area of Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. Prior to prohibition, the production was mostly utilized as wine. In more recent years, a major unfermented juice industry has developed in Arkansas and Missouri, and the wine industry has made rapid growth in all four states. Over 5,000 acres of grapes are presently grown in this four state region, with the majority found in Arkansas and Missouri (Table 1). With the exception of Oklahoma, all states expect an increased acreage in the near future.

### Arkansas

The cultivar most planted in Arkansas is Concord, occupying 1,652 acres, and used almost entirely for the unfermented juice industry. The wine industry uses a large number of cultivars including Niagara, Catawba, Delaware, Baco Noir, Cynthiana, Vil-

lard Noir, Seyval, Aurore, and Verdellet. Recently, some pure *Vitis vinifera* cultivars have been planted for high quality wine production in central Arkansas.

About 100 acres each of Campbell's Early and Fredonia are grown for local and roadside markets. The recent introduction of a blue seedless cultivar, Venus, by the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station has increased interest in table grape production. Muscadine grapes are adapted in large areas of central, south, and eastern Arkansas, but there are less than 50 acres in cultivation.

Arkansas has an extensive grape breeding and testing program in progress with emphasis on the development of table grapes. A recent cooperative agreement with the enology laboratory at Mississippi State University will result in greater future effort in wine grape breeding.

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**Table 1. Grape acreage in Arkansas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas.**

	Arkansas	Missouri	Oklahoma	Texas
Acreage	2,760	1,800	130	350
Bearing	2,609	1,500	120	130
Non-bearing	151	300	10	220
Acreage Trend	Increasing	Increasing	No Change	Increasing
Breeding Program	Yes	Yes	No	No
Testing Program	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

### Missouri

Concord is the leading cultivar in Missouri where it is grown for the unfermented juice industry and also used for fresh market and wine. Other cultivars grown for wine include Catawba, Niagara, Chancellor, Seyval Blanc, Chelois, Villard Blanc, Baco Noir, Foch, and Virginia Seedling. Of the grapes produced for juice and wine, about 80% are machine harvested. Some pick-your-own grapes are grown, principally Concord and Catawba.

Missouri has an active grape breeding and testing program. It is expected that the wine industry in Missouri may increase greatly in the next few years.

### Oklahoma

Although Oklahoma's grape acreage remains relatively small, a large number of cultivars are being tried. For wine, the cultivars Aurora, Seyval Blanc, Villard Blanc, Rougeon, Delaware and Catawba are most common. Himrod and Romulus are being planted a little for fresh market, and there is interest in Venus when plants become more readily available. Oklahoma has no juice industry as Concord does not ripen evenly in that climate. A few muscadines are grown in southeast Oklahoma. There are practically no grapes harvested by machine.

No grape breeding is being done at present, but there is an active testing program. No change in acreage is

anticipated in the near future. While soils and climate are suitable for grape production the lack of available markets are discouraging additional plantings.

### Texas

The recent interest in grape production in Texas is shown by the fact that two-thirds of the total acreage is not of bearing age (Table 1). The high interest and enthusiasm exhibited by the Texas Grape Growers Association also portends increased future grape acreage expansion.

Most grapes grown in Texas are processed into wine. Leading cultivars are Black Spanish, Vidal Blanc, Chancellor, Chenin Blanc, and Ruby Cabernet. A few acres of Thompson Seedless are produced in West Texas for fresh market. Also, a few acres of Carlos, Noble, and Summit muscadines are being grown. All grapes in Texas are harvested by hand.

Cultivars presently grown produce consistent and desirable yields of fruit high in sugar. However, the relatively high pH of the juice is undesirable for certain types of wines.

While most of the current Texas grape production is for wine, a considerable potential exists for table grape production if the proper cultivar could be developed. Pierce's Disease limits the production of many cultivars in large portions of Texas. An active cultivar testing program is being conducted to identify adapted material with good fruit quality.