

'Autumn Black' Grape

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Abstract

'Autumn Black,' a late-maturing black seeded grape (*Vitis vinifera* L.) has been released by the Quality Maintenance, Genetics and Transportation Research Unit of the Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory, Fresno, Calif. It is distinguished by its excellent fruit quality following long term storage.

Additional index words. *Vitis vinifera*, fruit breeding

Origin

'Autumn Black' resulted from the cross 'Calmeria' x 'Black Rose' made in 1960 (Fig. 1). The original vine was planted in 1961 and first fruited in 1964 in plots cooperative with California State University, Fresno. 'Autumn Black' was selected by John H. Weinberger and F. N. Harmon, and tested as C15-162 in California.

Description

'Autumn Black' ripens about 2 weeks after 'Ribier.' The flowers are perfect and self-fertile. The clusters are large in weight (0.7 to 0.9 kg), length (26 to 28 cm) and are conical, but not winged (Fig. 2). The berries are well-spaced, resulting in medium to loose cluster

compactness. Clusters are generally looser when grown on 'Harmony' rootstock than on their own roots. The berries are large, averaging 7.5 to 9.0 g, 22 mm in diameter, 32 mm long and are mostly truncate. The berries are bluish-black with a light white bloom. The flesh is a pale yellow green, translucent, meaty, of medium firmness and does not separate from the skin. The flavor is good, with a sweet taste, although the skin is slightly astringent. The skin is medium tough, making the fruit suitable for storage. The berries commonly contain 2 seeds, the largest weigh about 80 mg. The performance of 'Autumn Black' relative to 'Exotic' and 'Ribier' is presented in Table 1.

'Autumn Black' has a medium to strong peduncle of medium length and a strong pedicle of medium length. The brush is large, strong, reddish and provides good attachment. 'Autumn Black' stores well and has been held successfully in standard commercial storage until February. 'Autumn Black' vines are moderately vigorous and are productive on spurs.

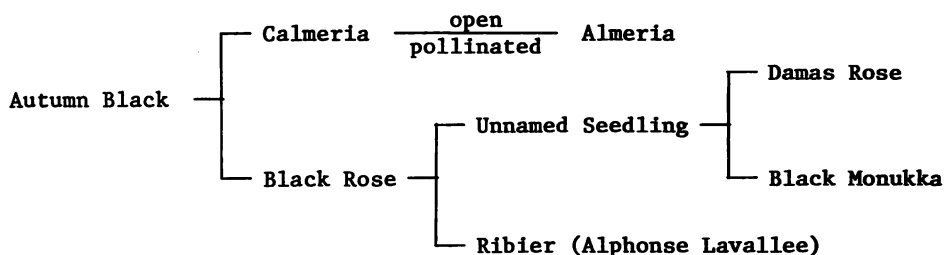


Figure 1. Pedigree of 'Autumn Black' grape.

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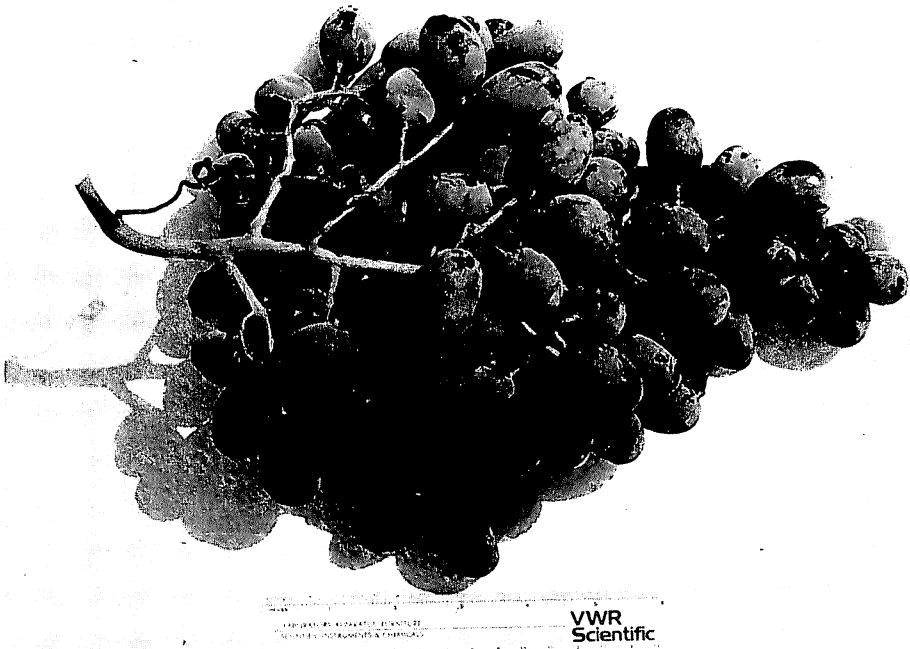


Figure 2. 'Autumn Black' grape.

Availability

The Agricultural Research Service has no vines of 'Autumn Black' available for distribution. Limited quantities of cuttings may be obtained by

writing David W. Ramming, USDA, ARS, Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory, 2021 South Peach Avenue, Fresno, CA 93727.

Table 1. Performance of 'Autumn Black' grape in comparison to 'Exotic' and 'Ribier.'

Character	Rating ²		
	'Autumn Black'	'Exotic'	'Ribier'
Avg. cluster wt. (kg)	0.8	1.0	1.2
Berry wt. (g)	6.8	9.8	6.4
No. seed/berry	1.8	2.6	2.6
Berry firmness	7	6	6
Fruit quality	7	7	7
Berry color	7	8	8
Berry pedicel	7	6	6
Berry attachment	7	7	6
Rachis	6	6	6
Production	7	8	8
Berry set in cluster	7	7	7
Berry shape	cylindrical truncate	round	round

²Ratings were subjective on a scale of 1 (least desirable) to 9 (most desirable).