

# New Grape Varieties and Selections in Ontario

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In 1946, the Horticultural Station at Vineland, Ontario obtained from France 35 of the earlier maturing French hybrid grapes which, from their descriptions, might be useful in the Niagara. One row of each variety was planted, each row of 150 vines being in part on a sandy knoll and in part on a good "grape clay."

In 1949 some of the wineries began testing these hybrids on a small scale. Each year since that time there has been an increasing interest shown in these varieties. We are now able to supply some varieties for commercial tests. As a result of these tests, it is becoming increasingly clear that different wineries prefer different varieties.

The French hybrids under test showing the most promise, with a few remarks about each, are as follows:

## BLUE:

*Seibel 10878*—Vines very vigorous and productive. Bunches and berries of medium size. Ripens with or just before Concord. Propagates very readily from cuttings.

*Seibel 7053*—Another vigorous grower that gives high yields, but is subject to mildew.

*Seibel 7052*—The berries of this variety are as large as any of the French hybrids. Good grower and heavy producer. Berries mature evenly.

*Seibel 5455*—Wine tests have been quite favorable with this variety. Has very large bunches. Vine is somewhat subject to winter injury.

*Seibel 5437*—Produces large bunches and a very highly colored juice. Tends to overbear. Requires heavy pruning.

*Seibel 9549*—Produces good crop of evenly maturing, medium-sized berries.

Bunches also medium in size. Ripens just before Concord.

*Seibel 13053*—Earliest ripening blue grape of this group. Vigorous and good yielding variety, but subject to bird damage.

*Bertille-Seyve 2862*—Large, clean bunches of fine appearance. Heavy yielder. Matures evenly. Promising.

## WHITE:

*Seibel 10868*—Has winter-killed when allowed to overbear. Produces well when thinned and pruned heavily. Promising for wine. Concord season.

*Seibel 9110*—Fine table grape and promising for wine. Concord or later in season.

*Seibel 8229*—Best grower on heavy clay. Medium sized bunches. One week before Concord.

*Seibel 5279*—Very early. A possibility where other varieties do not mature.

*Seyve-Villard 172*—Promising for wine. One week after Concord.

A number of selections from the Vineland Station breeding work have shown considerable promise for wine. Some of the more promising are as follows:

*29143* (Wilder x Winchell)—Blue. Medium-sized berries and bunches. A few days after Concord in season. Vigorous and productive.

*37014* (Golden Muscat x Lomanto)—Blue. Concord season or earlier. Medium-sized berries and bunches.

*370517* (Lomanto x Golden Muscat)—Blue. A few days later than Concord. Medium size berries of good quality.

*37069* (Lomanto x Seneca)—Blue. Bunch and berry small. Vine vigorous. Makes a high quality wine.