

PLANT SCIENCES

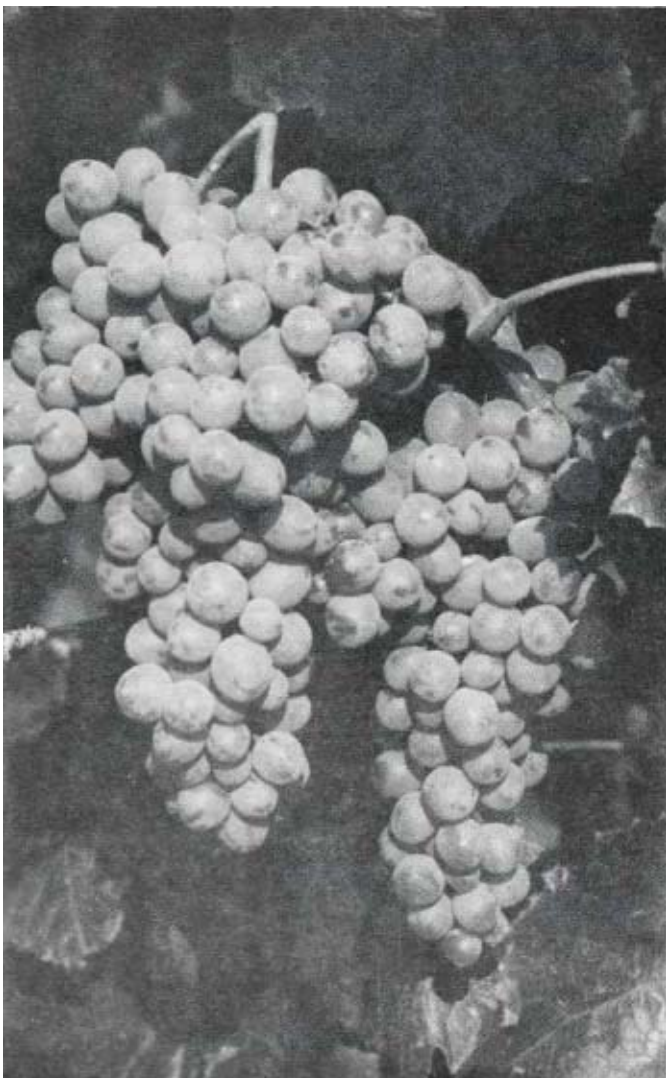
POMOLOGY (GENEVA)

NUMBER 4

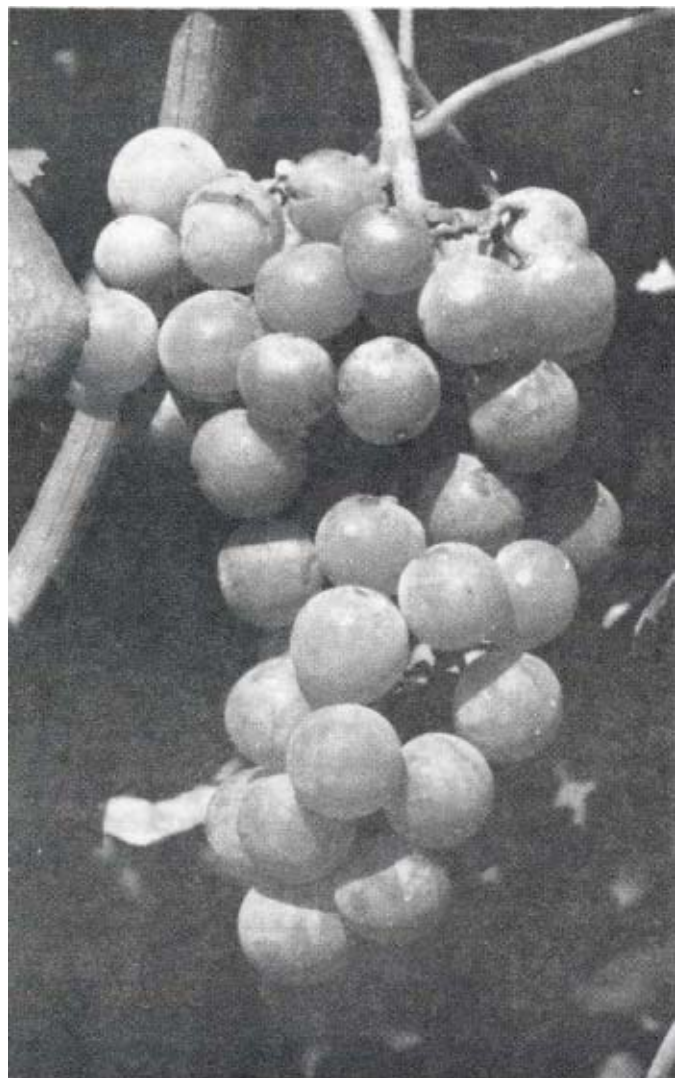
NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION, GENEVA, A DIVISION OF THE NEW YORK STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES, A STATUTORY COLLEGE OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY, CORNELL UNIVERSITY, ITHACA

Lakemont and Suffolk Red seedless grapes named

John Einset



Lakemont



Suffolk Red

A major objective in breeding dessert grapes has been to combine the seedless character available in certain grapes of Mediterranean origin with sufficient cold hardiness and disease resistance from our American grapes so that the resulting varieties will be suited for New York conditions.

Two major seedless sorts have been found to be the best sources of the seedless character in this program initiated some 50 or more years ago. Sultanina, or Thompson Seedless as it is known in California, is the most important raisin grape of the world and also a leading fresh fruit or shipping grape. This white seedless appears in our markets in summer from California and in winter from the Southern Hemisphere. The other parent of most interest has been the Black Monukka, another superior quality dessert grape of somewhat lesser economic importance.

The most productive of all crosses was one made in 1928 between Ontario and Sultanina. Ontario is a very early ripening, white, American-type slipskin variety, a seedling of Winchell x Moore's Diamond introduced by the Geneva Station in 1908 and still the best of its type in its season. A family of 56 seedlings fruited. From these, the Interlaken Seedless (New York 15292) was named in 1947 and Himrod (New York 15310) and Romulus (New York 15291) in 1952.

These varieties are all seedless, greenish-yellow in color, and ripen at different times. Interlaken Seedless is very early, Himrod early, and Romulus mid-season about with Concord. The vines of the three varieties are vigorous and productive and hardy enough to tolerate normal winters at Geneva with minimum winter injury. However, if temperatures fall much below -5 to -10° F or if the vines are allowed to carry excessive crops or to lose their leaves early by attacks of mildew or leaf-hoppers, injury will occur at even less extreme temperatures.

Of the three, Himrod has been found to have the finest eating quality and has gained at least limited commercial acceptance in such widely scattered regions as Japan, India, Ohio, Arkansas, and on Long Island. Himrod has the fault that its clusters are often loose and scraggly due to poor berry set. This can be remedied by cane ringing or by gibberellin applications at bloom.

A fourth selection, New York 15305, from the same family has been maintained in test vineyards and is now being named because it has fruit quality equal or nearly equal to Himrod and does not have the problem of poor berry set. It has also been rather widely distributed.

LAKEMONT

Vines of Lakemont have moderate vigor; they are slightly less hardy than Himrod but more so than Interlaken Seedless. The vines are productive. Flowers are perfect, stamens upright. The fruit clusters are

medium to large, medium compact to compact, wedge shaped. Berries are medium to medium minus in size, oval, yellowish-green. Flesh is tender, adheres to the skin as in the seedless parent, juicy, sweet, refreshing, very good to excellent in quality. Seeds are small, abortive, hardly noticeable. Season is about with Delaware or a little later.

SUFFOLK RED

Suffolk Red (New York 21572) is a seedling of Fredonia x Russian Seedless 136. The seedless parent was apparently Black Monukka under another name. It was brought to Geneva by Dr. A. B. Stout of the New York Botanical Garden in 1933 for use in the seedless breeding program. The seed parent, Fredonia, is an early mid-season, blue, American-type grape of fair quality, a seedling of Champion x Lucile introduced at Geneva in 1927.

The cross was made in 1935. The fruit was first described in 1941, and the selection was propagated in 1944 as an attractive red seedless.

The vine of Suffolk Red has good vigor and is only moderately hardy. Production can be good under appropriate conditions. Flowers are perfect, stamens upright, short. Fruit clusters are medium to large, long cylindrical, loose to scraggly when no ringing or gibberellin treatments are applied. Berries are medium in size, round, bright red. Flesh is melting, meaty, sweet, of very good quality. Seeds are small, soft, and hardly noticeable. Season is early, before Delaware.

Suffolk Red is not sufficiently winter hardy for colder areas. It also tends to set scraggly clusters. However, under conditions of relatively mild winters as in Suffolk County on Long Island and with gibberellin treatments to insure a good set, it has performed very well. Similar reports have been received from several other locations. For these reasons, and because it is an early, attractive red seedless of excellent quality, it is being named so that it may be more widely available.

REFERENCES

1. Linder, Lloyd A. and John Einset. 1966. Improving berry and cluster size of seedless New York grapes. *Farm Res.* 31 (4): 10-11.
2. Slate, George L., John Watson, and John Einset. 1962. Grape varieties introduced by the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station. N. Y. State Agr. Exp. Sta., Geneva, Bull. 794.