HortScience. 12(6):587. 1977. **'Glenora' Grape**¹

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Additional index words. Vitis, fruit breeding

A major objective of the grape breeding program at Geneva has been to combine the seedless character available in certain grapes of Mediterranean origin with the winter cold hardiness and disease resistance of grapes of American origin so that the resulting progeny will be suited to the growing conditions of northeastern North America. From this program, 4 white and 1 red seedless (stenospermocarpic) cultivars have been released and planted widely (2). There has been considerable demand for a blue, seedless grape similar to those already released. 'Glenora' meets this demand.

Origin

'Glenora' (Fig. 1) was selected in 1952 from a population of 62 plants resulting from the cross 'Ontario' \times 'Russian Seedless' made in 1947. 'Ontario' is an early maturing, white, seeded American (*Vitis labruscana* Bailey) cultivar, well adapted to New York growing conditions and introduced at Geneva in 1908 (2).

'Russian Seedless' (V. vinifera L.) was obtained by the Station in 1921 from California via Professor A. B. Stout of the Brooklyn Botanical Garden. The records of the N.Y. State Agricultural Experiment Station indicate that 'Russian Seedless' is identical with 'Black Monukka'. 'Russian Seedless' is no longer in our grape cultivar collection, so we cannot confirm this identification. 'Glenora' has been



Fig. 1. 'Glenora' grape.

tested widely in commercial vineyards in NY, and at other experiments stations in the Northeast as NY 35814, and since 1970 it has been available for testing from the New York State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Geneva. Reports indicate that 'Glenora' is adapted to the better grape sites in Northeastern North America, but reports from other locations are lacking. 'Glenora' should be adapted to locations where 'Himrod' or 'Interlaken' succeed.

Description

Vines of 'Glenora' are vigorous, and own-rooted vines growing in soils infested with phylloxera (*Phylloxera* vastatrix Planchon) have maintained annual pruning wt in excess of 1.8 kg indicating that there is no need to graft 'Glenora' to a phylloxeraresistant rootstock. The vines are not fully winter hardy at Geneva. In test winters (those in which the mid-winter temp is less than $-27^{\circ}C$) injury to primary buds has exceeded 70% and some trunk injury has been observed, but 'Glenora' produces full crops most years at Geneva and is as winter hardy as such widely planted cultivars as 'Himrod' and 'Interlaken'. The vines are less resistant to powdery mildew (Uncinula necator Burr.) and downy mildew (Plasmopara viticola Berl. & Toni.) than are 'Concord' vines and extra sprays may be required to control these diseases.

The berries are blue-black, medium size (ca. 2 g) with small vestigial seeds that are scarcely noticeable. The skin is adherent, the flesh is melting and the flavor delicate and not noticeably labrusca in character. The clusters are large (more than 400 g), cylindrical and not excessively compact. Berry cracking has not been observed. 'Glenora' responds very favorably to treatment with gibberellic acid which increases berry size (1). 'Glenora' is classified as early ripening, maturing at about the same time as 'Himrod'. 'Glenora' did not perform well in storage trials. It withstood fumigation with SO₂, however, there was excessive rachis breakage and off flavors developed after 8 weeks in storage at 0°C.

Availability

Vines of 'Glenora' are available from several commercial nurseries in New York and from the N.Y. State Fruit Testing Cooperative Association, Geneva, NY 14456.

Literature Cited

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Received for publication August 13, 1977. Approved by the Director of the New York State Agricultural Experiment Station, Geneva NY for publication as Journal Paper No. 3096.
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