

Media Advisory: Aug. 10, 2023

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Annual Grape Field Day will highlight the latest in cold-hardy grapes Sept. 9
University of Minnesota co-hosts annual Grape Extension Field Day to showcase research in cold-hardy cultivars, pest and disease management and winemaking best practices, while offering tastes of 50 varieties of grapes!

VICTORIA, Minnesota—Researchers, graduate students, and staff will be hosting an open house on Saturday, Sept. 9 for the Annual Grape Extension Field Day at the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Horticultural Research Center (HRC). The U of M Grape Breeding and Enology Program, in partnership with the University of Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, hosts the annual field day to highlight research into the breeding and management of cold-hardy grape varieties, many of which have been developed at the HRC.

The event is open to the public and hopes to draw both commercial and backyard grape growers, as well as professional and home winemakers. Visitors to the field day will get to hear about a variety of recent research projects and their implications for Minnesotans who love local grapes. There will also be the opportunity to taste about 50 varieties of wine and table grapes grown on site at the HRC, many of which are not commercially available yet!

Media note: Members of the media are encouraged to attend to interview, photograph and film the field day between 9:30 a.m. and noon Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023. Afterward, the HRC will be closed to everyone except UMN students and staff. To arrange interviews during the event or at other times, please contact Kate Fessler, listed above.

What: Annual Grape Field Day

When: 10 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023

Where: The Horticultural Research Center, 600 Arboretum Blvd., Excelsior, MN 55331

How: A group of diverse grape experts will talk about their research at an informal, open house-style field day hosted at the HRC. Homeowners, grape growers and wine industry professionals are encouraged to attend and ask questions about best practices for growing both wine and table grapes, as well as producing wine. Visitors can walk through the research vineyards and then taste a variety of grapes with vineyard staff.

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About the U of M Grape Breeding & Enology Program

Located at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, we conduct research in the Department of Horticultural Science and at the Horticultural Research Center. Our focus is on grapevine cultivar development which includes: wine grapes, table grape varieties, and ornamentals that survive and thrive in cold-climate conditions. We also work on understanding the mechanisms of disease and pest resistance so that we can incorporate these traits as a way to improve sustainability for Minnesota growers. In addition to breeding grapes, we develop and teach enology best practices for cold-hardy grapes. Learn more at <https://enology.umn.edu/>

About the U of M Minnesota Landscape Arboretum's Horticultural Research Center

Located one mile west of the main entrance to the University of Minnesota's Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, the Arboretum's Horticultural Research Center (HRC) is one of the leading institutions for fruit and woody landscape plant research with more than 150 plant introductions since 1908, including the Honeycrisp apple in 1991. Research is focused on breeding plants and new varieties that are cold-hardy in Minnesota's climate, work that benefits both northern gardeners and commercial growers. Learn more at arb.umn.edu/learn/research/horticultural-research-center.



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