

## COLD HARDY WINE GRAPES



# Bluebell

Released in 1944 by the University of Minnesota, Bluebell is a blue seeded hybrid grape known for its exceptional cold hardiness. It produces high quality fruit suitable for fresh consumption, juice, and jelly. The flavor is reminiscent of Concord jelly.

College of Food, Agricultural  
and Natural Resource Sciences (CFANS)  
University of Minnesota Extension

  
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## GROWTH HABIT, PRUNING AND CANOPY MANAGEMENT

Bluebell has a vigorous and procumbent, or downward growth habit. Its dense foliage can be managed by shoot thinning as well as removal of basal leaf and lateral shoot to improve air circulation and light penetration.

## DISEASE AND PEST SUSCEPTIBILITY

Generally, Bluebell exhibits resistance to powdery mildew, downy mildew, and bunch rot. In wet seasons, it can be susceptible to anthracnose and black rot if not managed properly.

## FRUIT CHARACTERISTICS

Fruit clusters are medium-sized and somewhat compact with a pronounced shoulder. Berries are medium in size with a dark blue slip-skin and juicy flesh, making them ideal for juicing and processing, and acceptable for fresh eating. The fruit is seeded and has a Concord-like flavor, which is sometimes described as “foxy” (a signature flavor for vines with labrusca heritage). Yield per vine is approximately 12 lbs (on 6-foot spacing with shoots spaced at 5-8 shoots per linear foot cordon).

## WINTER HARDINESS

Notable for its cold hardiness, this vine can withstand temperatures as low as -30 °F.

## BUD BREAK AND HARVEST TIMING

Bud break of Bluebell typically occurs in mid-spring (e.g., late April in MN), depending on the local climate. The grapes reach full maturity in late September. In wet fall conditions, the berries are prone to splitting.

## TRAINING SYSTEMS

Bluebell vines can be trained using systems that train shoots downward, such as high wire cordon (HWC) and Geneva double curtain (GDC). Due to its vigorous growth, a split canopy system like GDC may be ideal. Training Bluebell vines on Vertical Shoot Positioning and other upward training systems can be challenging. The choice of training system should ultimately be based on vineyard site characteristics, soil fertility, environmental conditions, and management goals.



AUTHORS: SOON LI TEH, JOHN THULL, MADELINE WIMMER

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

SOON LI TEH | TEH@UMN.EDU | ENOLOGY.UMN.EDU