

## COLD HARDY WINE GRAPES



# Swenson Red

Released jointly by Elmer Swenson and the University of Minnesota in 1978, this hybrid grape cultivar is best used for fresh consumption. It is a marginally winter hardy vine that produces large clusters with bright red medium-to-large, seeded berries that have a sweet, fruity, and non-foxy flavor.

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### FRUIT CHARACTERISTICS

Swenson Red produces large clusters of medium-sized, seeded berries that may turn reddish-blue if harvested late. The flesh is firm in texture and has an adherent thin skin. The flavor is sweet, mildly fruity, and pleasant. The fruit is typically harvested for fresh eating. Yield per vine is approximately 15 lbs (6-foot vine spacing; 5-8 shoots per foot of cordon).

### WINTER HARDINESS

The vine is winter hardy (-15 °F), but less hardy than Bluebell and Valiant. Winter protection is recommended for growing this cultivar in regions colder than Zone 5.

### BUD BREAK AND HARVEST TIMING

Bud break of Swenson Red typically happens in mid-spring (e.g., late April in MN), depending on the local climate. The grapes reach full maturity in mid-September. Timely harvest is important to capture the optimal balance of sugars and acids in the fruit. Harvest timing can vary based on growing regions, and environmental conditions.

### TRAINING SYSTEMS

Swenson Red performs well with several downward shoot-positioned training systems, including the high wire cordon (HWC) and Geneva double curtain (GDC). Due to its vigorous growth, a split canopy system like GDC may be ideal. The choice of training system will depend on site, soil fertility, environmental conditions, and management goals.

### GROWTH HABIT, PRUNING AND CANOPY MANAGEMENT

Swenson Red exhibits a vigorous growth habit with a semi-upright to procumbent, or downward growth pattern. Spur pruning is commonly adopted, leaving 2-4 buds per spur. The vine produces dense foliage, which can be managed by shoot thinning and leaf removal to improve air circulation and light penetration. In some seasons, the vine tends to be overly productive, thereby requiring cluster thinning to improve fruit maturity and quality.

### DISEASE AND PEST SUSCEPTIBILITY

Swenson Red is reported as highly susceptible to downy mildew, moderately susceptible to bunch rot and powdery mildew, and marginally susceptible to black rot and crown gall.



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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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