

# **Promise for the Future**

-- Impressions of some of the later Swenson cultivars --

Bruce Smith

11/11/2006

# Later Swenson Selections

- Later Named Cultivars:

Swenson White (ES 6-1-43)

Sabrevois (ES 2-9-1)

Louise Swenson (ES 4-8-33)

Alpenglow (ES 2-8-1)

DeLisle (ES 7-5-41)

Montreal Blue(s) (ES 6-4-47)

Summersweet (ES 5-4-35)

Norway Red (ES 2-4-7)

Aldemina (ES 6-16-30)

Prairie Star (ES 3-24-7)

Brianna (ES 7-4-76)

Somerset Seedless (ES 12-7-98)

Shannon (ES 6-11-42)

Lorelei (ES 5-4-29)

Petite Jewel (ES 3-20-36)

- Un-named Cultivars of note:

ES 10-18-20

ES 10-18-26

ES 2-3-17

ES 9-5-13

M-17-21

ES 5-4-16

M-9-13

ES 10-18-30

ES 9-4-72

**Cultivars suitable for white wine**

# *Prairie Star*

Reliable (and typically fairly heavy) cropper; excellent winter hardiness and health; good fruit set; ripens wood early; fruit reaches suitable brix/acid levels for winemaking by mid-September (about equal with *Foch*)



# ES 2-8-1 (aka *Alpenglow*)

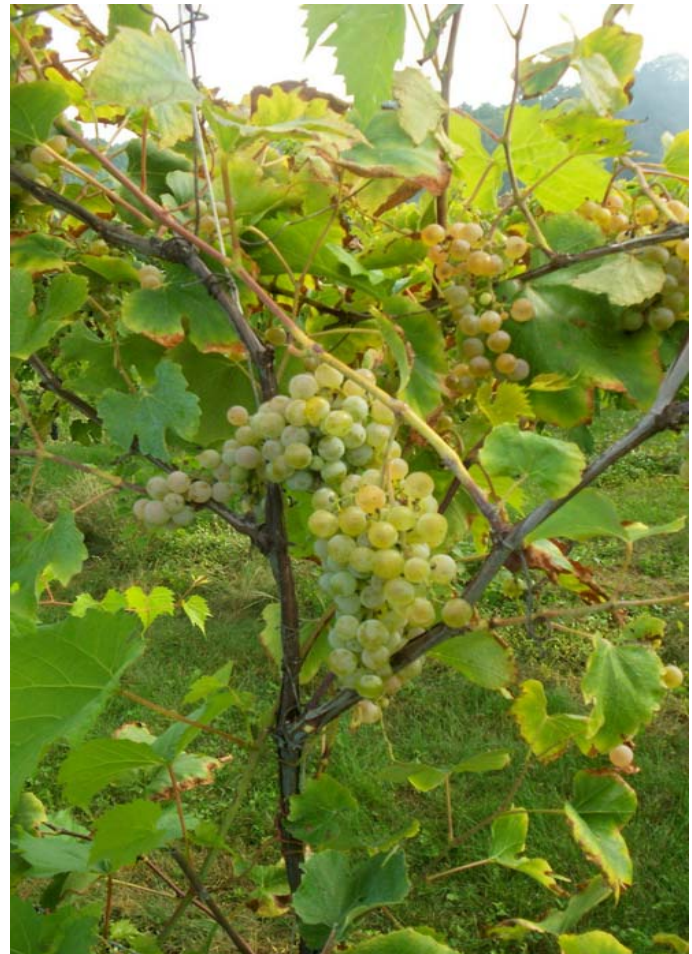
Ripens extremely early (by 9/1 at my site; 2-3 weeks before *Foch*) – before the animals/insects become interested; good fruit set and production; good/balanced plant vigor and production (reliably 10-12 lbs. per vine), and early wood ripening, even on hard clay. Fruit has neutral, non-*labrusca* flavor; low acid. Berries only turn color (red) when they receive sunlight. Good white wine “blender”? Downside: ?? (winemaking a work-in-progress)





# ES 5-4-29 (aka *Lorelei*)

Attractive, complex tropical fruit flavors develop early (by 9/1). Good cluster & berry size. Female (?). Plant exhibited apparent nutrient deficiency at my vineyard site (the only “struggling” cultivar this entire season), but no such symptoms on my yard vines. Sister of ES 5-4-16.



# ES 6-16-30 (aka *Aldemina*)

Exceptionally healthy vine, and apparently quite winter hardy. Very orderly growth habit, with moderate vigor. Low production for me (at least during the first few years of production). Brix of 22 on 9/11/06. Neutral juice flavor. Winemaking a “work in progress” – but some promise.



# ES 10-18-30

Healthy, apparently cold-hardy vine, but poor vigor and production (self-rooted) on my site. Reportedly makes good wine, but I have no experience with it ... there hasn't been enough fruit for me to evaluate.





# ES 2-3-17

Very cold-hardy, relatively late bud break, decent crop, clean foliage and fruit, orderly/balanced growth on my site. Develops a “citrus” sort of flavor in late September. Relatively late ripening (late September – only 20 brix on 9/11/06, when most others were in low-mid 20’s), pistillate. Sister of *St. Croix* and *Sabrevois*; parent of *Louise Swenson* and ES 6-16-30.



# M-17-21

The fruit looked very good in September 2004, and juice parameters were favorable for wine. But no experience making wine with it. May not be fully hardy for Minnesota.



**Cultivars suitable for red wine**

# *Sabrevois*

Cold-hardy, healthy vine. Ripens juicy, tasty fruit about the same time as *Foch*, though brix is lower (22 when *Foch* was 24). Juice is not deeply pigmented, but the wine can reportedly be quite dark. Acid about the same or slightly lower than *Foch*. Clusters somewhat loose, but well-filled.





# ES 5-4-16

Relatively late bud break. Grows well even on poor soils (compacted clay); extremely healthy vine and fruit, and extremely productive. Huge and well-filled clusters; very pleasant flavor. Could be an excellent fresh market product (seeded). Ripens wood early and well. Rather slow to color the fruit, and relatively thin skins (yellow jackets love it). Doesn't impart much color when winemaking (lots of clear, juicy pulp), and relatively low brix (only 19 on 9/11/06, when *Foch* was at 24 and *Frontenac* at 27). Not well suited for the production of a single-varietal red table wine, but it can offer a lot of good things – things which meld well with existing (and sometimes problematic) cold-hardy cultivars. I've found it to be a good "field" blender for *Frontenac*.



# ES 5-4-16 (cont'd)





# ES 10-18-50

Healthy and apparently cold-hardy vine; productive of many clusters. Interesting, distinctive, pleasant taste in fruit, but untested (by me) for wine. Clusters on small side and rather loose (think *Frontenac*, but slightly smaller berries and clusters only 1/3 to half the size), but no “shot” berries. Good sugar development (25 brix on 9/11/06) and deeply pigmented juice (more than *Foch*, *Sabrevois*, and ES 10-18-20; just a bit less than *Frontenac*). Same parentage as all 10-18-XX vines (*Cab* and *Chard* grandparents).



# ES 10-18-20

Cold-hardy, healthy, fairly productive (Elmer's site and my vineyard site, not yet my home site). Rich red color and flavor in ripe fruit. 25 brix on 9/11/06 – more than *Foch* (24) and *Sabrevois* (22) on the same date. Not fully self-fertile? Only with the vines in my yard site would I think this; at the vineyard the clusters look great, having larger berries and perfectly filled clusters about 20% larger than *Foch*. Can make a very nice red table wine.





# Red Cultivar Comparison

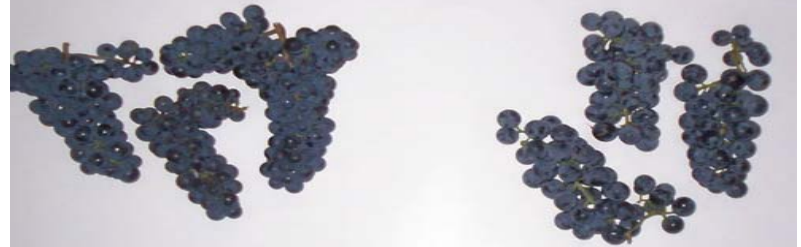
ES 5-4-16

Frontenac



Foch

Sabrevois



ES 10-18-20

ES 10-18-50



# Promising cultivars with which I have limited experience

## White Wine

- *Swenson White*
- *Louise Swenson*
- *Brianna*
- *M-9-13*
- *ES 9-5-13*

## Red Wine

- *ES 10-18-26 (rosé)*

# Where can a person get these varieties?

- Some nurseries
- Other growers
- GRIN (Geneva repository)
- [ELMERSWENSON.COM](http://ELMERSWENSON.COM)

# Thoughts about the un-named Swenson cultivars' future

- Formal evaluations of Swenson cultivars continue at universities in several states.
- University breeding programs continue to use Swenson material in their own creations (ex: *LaCrescent*), as do many private grape breeders.
- Will any more numbered Swenson selections be “officially” named?



# Message from my soapbox

- Share
  - Your knowledge
  - Your experience
  - Your enthusiasm
  - Your time

Questions?