



NEW VARIETIES FOR THE DRIED & TABLE GRAPE INDUSTRIES

The Victorian & Murray Valley Vine Improvement Association (VAMVVIA) will have a number of new dried and table grape varieties available to industry in 2006.

New varieties available to the Dried grape industry are DOVine, Summer Muscat and Diamond Muscat and for the Table Grape industry is Autumn Royal.

All varieties were imported through Foundation Plant Services (USA), were quarantined in accordance with AQIS requirements and underwent appropriate virus testing prior to be released to the Australian Vine Improvement Association and then on to VAMVVIA and other member Vine Improvement Groups.

Information on each Variety has been sourced from the United States Department of Agriculture information sheets. Information contained below has been taken from these sheets.

DRIED GRAPES

Diamond Muscat

An early season white seedless grape that is early ripening. The variety is suited to summer pruning. The berries are medium size, averaging 1.8 to 2.2 grams and are oval in shape. The flavour is sweet with a pleasant fruity, muscat flavour that remains when the fruit is dried. The skin is medium thick, medium tough. The berries contain 1 to 2 aborted seeds that are small and rarely noticeable.

DOVine

An early season white seedless grape. The variety is suited to summer pruning. The berries are medium to large size, averaging 1.85 grams and are slightly rounded in shape. The flavour is sweet and neutral. The skin is medium thick, medium tough. The berries contain 1 to 2 aborted seeds that are small and undetectable.

Summer Muscat

A seedless raisin type, with a sweet, strong muscat flavour somewhat like the Muscat of Alexandria Grape. The variety is suited to summer pruning.

TABLE GRAPES

Autumn Royal

A late season black to purple black grape with a light waxy bloom. The clusters are large in size (0.5 to 1 kilogram) and length. The berries are large, averaging 6.5 grams, and are ovoid to ellipsoidal in shape. The flavour is sweet and neutral. The skin is medium thick and medium tough. The berries contain 2-4 aborted seeds that are burgundy in colour and medium to small in size.

The shoots and canes are brittle and can be easily broken by hand. Vines are medium to slightly weak in vigour.

Two other table grape varieties, Princess and Summer Royal are currently in VAMVVIA's collection, however recent advice from the Californian Table Grape Commission is they have applied for and been granted retrospective provisional Plant Breeder Rights (PBR) for the two varieties. At the time of this publication, VAMVVIA was not able to advise that cuttings from either variety would be available to all growers through the VAMVVIA allocation system. Negotiations are continuing.

ON THE HORIZON

The dried grape variety, Selma Pete was imported on 2004 and after quarantine and virus testing will be distributed to AVIA and affiliated vine improvement groups.

Selma Pete is a very early white seedless grape. Berries are slightly larger than Thomson Seedless and consistently ripen with a sugar content of 21 percent or higher. Limited cuttings should be available in winter 2008.