

MGGA 1984 ANNUAL REPORT

GROWERS REPORT

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Last year was an excellent year as far as I am concerned. Most of my crosses fruited for the first time so I could make preliminary judgements about fruit quality and then it reached approximately -40 degrees so I could determine if they were cold hardy. Because of the combination of these factors I was able to rogue over 100 seedlings this year.

As general information I can say that the following crosses produced a substantial number of hardy offspring.

Beta X Swensons Red
Swensons Red X Beta
Swensons Red X male Riparia

Crosses which did not produce much hardiness were:

Riparia X July Muscat
Beta X July Muscat
Riparia X Early Muscat
Beta X Beauty Seedless
Beta X Thompson Seedless

This was exactly what I expected but I was surprised by the high percentage of Swensons Red and Beta crosses that were hardy.

This summer I found out what black rot was and what it could do. I did not have spraying equipment that would handle my vineyard until half way through the summer and by then both black rot and downy mildew had a firm hold on the vineyards. In the middle of the summer I bought a backpack mist sprayer and established some control over the fungi.

This year I tried Measurol for the first time and I can say that it really worked. I applied it by spot spraying just the bunches twice one week apart when the earliest bunches were ripening and had no more problem with the birds.

Raccoons on the other hand continued to be a problem as long as there were ripe grapes in the vineyard.

This next year I should be able to evaluate fruit from crosses of:

Riparia X Delight
Riparia X Gold
Beta X Delight