

# WENDELL WOODCOCK

## WINDOM, MINNESOTA



## WENDELL WOODCOCK, GROWER



The winter of 1997-98 was extremely mild. The temperature did not drop to 0°F until December 31. There were only four days in January below 0°F. January 10 was the coldest at -8°F. February 3 dropped to 0°F, the rest of the month was 20-30°F for lows and mostly around 40° to 50°F for highs. March was like February except the 10-12<sup>th</sup>, when the temperature dropped to -7° to -5°F. April 17 was the last day below freezing, with 31°F. This was the mildest winter ever since I started raising grapes, about 1972.

The growing season started early with 74° on May 1 and 97° on May 18. May 2 was the only day with a low in the 30's. Minor leaf damage on the grapes occurred on October 13 when the temperature dropped to 29°F. The lows the rest of the month were above freezing. For this area, a perfect growing season.

Rainfall was below average most of the summer, so disease was not a major problem, except for on one variety.

The 50°F base degree day accumulation follows. The top row is from the Windom Weather Channel data on our TV cable system. The bottom row is based on a mercury high-low thermometer on a patio on the south side of our house. This area is usually warmer on sunny days.

	Degree Day Accumulation						
Source	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.
Official	74	474	486	718	688	543	127
House	133	545	609	805	751	544	130

Official Total = 3110

House Total = 3384

All grapevines were sprayed with Kocide on the following days: May 10, June 26, July 9, July 23, and August 8. No other pesticide was used.

The only grape with disease problems was U of MN 1169. About one half of the fruit was destroyed by powdery mildew. Hopefully, a better spray program next summer will solve this problem.

The best performers for 1998 based on growth, yield, disease resistance, and past performance are:

- DM: 8313-1 and P3-R1.
- ES: 6-1-43, 2-12-13, 2-12-8, 10-18-66, 12-7-30, 5-4-16, 6-13-31, 12-5-67, 6-4-47, and 8-2-24.
- MN: 1095, 1047 (Frontenac), 1189, 1185, 1161, and 1166.

Swenson Red and St. Croix also did very well. ES 5-3-41 overproduced and never ripened properly.

The table that follows summarizes the 1998 performance of the 60 varieties I am currently raising. Where 2 numbers appear in the yield column, they are the yield from each of 2 vines. I have only one plant of most varieties.

The somewhat erratic sugar percentages are due to the fact that the measurements were based on single berries, randomly selected.

Acid levels were measured during winemaking. For the white grapes, 0.87% to 0.90% were noted, which is still above the ideal of 0.65%. The reds ranged from 0.85% to 1.1 %; ideal is 0.55%.

In spite of a perfect summer and 50°F base Degree Day accumulations of 2771 or higher at harvest time, the acid levels were still too high, waiting another week or two before picking probably would have solved this problem.

All wines, both red and white, started this fall were ameliorated with distilled water, treated with chalk, and inoculated with malolactic bacteria to reduce the acid to more acceptable levels.

This procedure was also used in 1997 with good results. I have used all of the varieties in the "best performers" list given above in wine making with

satisfactory results. I feel certain the enologist that the University hires will work miracles with all of the numbered selections he will have at his disposal.

## Woodcock Results 1998

Variety	Age	Bud Break	Bloom	Veraison	Percent Sugar			Harvest		Degree Days At Harvest <sup>1</sup>
					9/2	9/8	9/16 & 21	Yield (lbs.)	Date	
DM P3-R1	9	5/5	6/2	7/25	17.2	17.3	15.9	6.5	9/20	2864
DM P3-25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DM 26-50	3	5/1	5/28	7/26	16.4	19.4	21.7	0.5	9/16	2771
DM 8313-1	9	4/28	5/29	7/25	17.9	18.9	21.7	9 + 9	9/19	3115
Unknown	2	5/2	5/28	7/25	20.9	21.5	-	-	-	-
ES 2-12-8	11	5/2	5/28	7/25	17.7	18.1	21.2	12	9/19	2846
ES 2-12-13	16	5/9	6/1	7/26	21.2	15.7	23.9	10	9/19	2846
ES 3-20-33	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 3-22-16	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 4-7-26	2	5/7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 4-7-67	2	5/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 4-22-60	2	5/1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 5-3-41	8	5/1	5/28	7/30	13.9	10.8	-	29	9/24	3155
ES 5-4-16	6	5/2	5/30	7/30	11.8	14.8	16.2	16	9/22	3141
ES 5-4-18	3	5/2	5/29	7/26	20.6	22.0	24.2	3 + 2	9/16	2771
ES 5-4-19	3	5/2	5/30	7/25	20.0	20.5	-	0.5	9/16	3041
ES 5-4-29	3	5/1	6/2	7/28	17.6	18.5	18.5	0.5	9/16	2771
ES 5-4-35	11	4/28	6/1	7/29	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 6-1-43	9	5/7	5/31	7/26	16.4	18.2	18.0	14.5	9/20	2864
ES 6-4-47	5	4/28	5/28	7/27	18.5	13.9	22.1	7.5 + 7.5	9/24	3018
ES 6-13-27	3	5/1	5/28	7/25	-	-	-	0.5	9/20	3136
ES 6-13-31	7	4/29	5/28	7/30	18.3	19.0	23.2	≈ 10	9/25	3176
ES 6-15-18	2	5/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 6-16-30	4	5/2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 7-6-67	5	5/1	5/31	7/30	18.1	28.0	23.1	0.5	9/16	2771
ES 7-8-38	2	5/3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 8-2-24	4	4/29	5/27	8/1	20.9	8.3	16.2	6.5 + 2.5	9/22	2867
ES 9-7-54	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 10-18-50	4	5/1	5/28	8/5	20.2	20.6	19.4	2.5	9/25	2903
ES 10-18-66	5	5/1	6/1	7/27	23.2	22.0	20.9	5	9/23	2869

## Woodcock Results 1998 (continued)

Variety	Age	Bud Break	Bloom	Veraison	Percent Sugar			Harvest		Degree Days At Harvest <sup>1</sup>
					9/2	9/8	9/16 & 21	Yield (lbs.)	Date	
ES 11-1-63	4	5/4	6/2	8/4	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 11-2-58	4	5/4	-	-	16.5	18.4	-	1	9/20	2864
ES 12-5-17	4	5/2	5/29	7/26	-	-	-	0.5	9/20	2864
ES 12-5-67	4	5/3	5/28	7/25	10.7	21.2	19.2	15.5	9/21	3002
ES 12-6-18	4	5/6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 12-6-55	3	5/4	5/31	7/31	20.2	21.5	-	0.5	9/24	2882
ES 12-7-30	3	5/6	5/30	7/28	15.0	22.2	18.2	3	9/19	3115
ES 12-7-98	4	5/2	5/28	7/23	-	-	-	-	-	-
ES 15-53	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
NY 30454	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
PRK 13-32	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
R Werner 1018	4	5/4	6/3	8/5	-	18.2	-	0.5	9/20	2864
R Werner 1035	7	5/2	5/30	7/26	14.1	20.2	20.6	2	9/16	2771
R Werner C-4	5	5/3	6/2	7/24	18.8	18.5	22.1	1	9/24	2882
Seyval blanc	5	-	5/28	7/25	15.4	18.4	20.4	4.5	9/16	3041
St. Croix	17	4/28	5/28	7/26	21.2	21.0	16.2	9	9/22	3141
Swenson Red	21	4/30	5/28	8/1	15.6	17.6	20.6	≈ 10	9/16	3041
MN 1047 (Frontenac)	6	5/4	5/28	8/5	10.7	20.3	20.9	15	9/23	2869
MN 1060	3	5/3	5/28	7/30	17.0	18.2	22.1	3 + 8	9/24	2882
MN 1095	5	5/1	5/28	7/28	19.4	21.8	20.9	20	9/23	2869
MN 1112	6	5/1	5/29	8/4	13.9	15.0	22.0	5	9/19	3115
MN 1161	5	4/29	5/27	7/25	22.8	25.1	22.1	11.5 + 11.5	9/24	2882
MN 1166	3	5/3	5/29	7/27	19.9	22.2	24.2	2	9/19	2846
MN 1169	5	5/2	5/30	8/5	16.5	20.1	16.2	5	9/22	3141
MN 1185	4	5/1	5/29	8/3	20.5	22.2	23.0	7.5	9/19	2846
MN 1189	3	5/3	5/31	7/26	15.4	17.4	19.4	2	9/25	2903
MN 1191	3	5/4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vignoles	5	-	5/31	8/4	21.0	23.6	-	0.5	9/16	3041
WHW #5	4	5/1	5/28	8/5	13.5	8.9	17.9	7	9/21	2866
Zalagyongye	3	-	5/28	7/25	12.4	14.0	18.9	4	9/16	3041

<sup>1</sup> Degree Days at harvest values are estimates based on the position of the vine relative to the house recording location.