



CALIFORNIA
TABLE GRAPE
COMMISSION

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Table Grape Patenting and Licensing Program

The California Table Grape Commission (commission) has partnered with the United States Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (USDA) since 1981 to develop promising new table grape cultivars and with USDA since 2001 to obtain patent and other plant variety protection for those cultivars, to distribute the cultivars to the industry under agreement, and to protect the cultivars from unauthorized use.

For California's table grape growers, the purpose of the patenting and licensing program is to provide the industry with equal legal access to certified, licensed plant material resulting from industry-funded cultivar development research and to control unauthorized propagation and distribution of this plant material, whether in the U.S. or international markets.

USDA holds U.S. patents on, and the commission has been granted exclusive domestic and international rights to, three USDA table grape cultivars: Sweet Scarlet, Scarlet Royal and Autumn King. The commission has been granted exclusive international rights for two other USDA cultivars, Princess and Summer Royal. The commission is pursuing international plant variety protection (PVP) or plant breeder's rights (PBR) for all licensed cultivars listed above. The commission has targeted and filed PVP/PBR applications in the following ten countries/regions: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, China, European Union, Israel, Mexico, Peru and South Africa. PVP/PBR certificates have been granted in many targeted countries/regions.

The commission is committed to working with the U.S. Government to vigorously enforce all plant patent rights, plant breeder's rights, and plant variety certificates on licensed plant material both domestically and internationally.

Patented/Licensed Cultivars

Princess (previously named Melissa) – Available June-November (approx.) from California: Released in the U.S. in 1999 as a result of a cross of complex hybrids. The Princess variety is a mid-season white seedless grape with large, cylindrical berries and a slight Muscat flavor. The skin is medium thick, medium tough and adheres to the flesh. The clusters are conical with shoulders, loosely to well-filled and medium to large in size and length.

Summer Royal – Available June-September (approx.) from California: Released in the U.S. in 1999 as a result of a cross of complex hybrids. The Summer Royal variety is a mid-season black seedless grape with medium, round to slightly oval berries. The flavor is neutral. The skin is medium thick, medium tough and adheres to the flesh. The clusters are conical with shoulders, slightly loose and medium in size and length.

Sweet Scarlet – Available August-December (approx.) from California:

Patented (U.S. Plant Patent No. PP15891). Released in the U.S. in 2004 as a result of a cross of complex hybrids. The Sweet Scarlet variety is a mid-season red seedless grape with medium, oval berries and a mild Muscat flavor. The skin is medium in thickness and adheres to the flesh. The clusters are conical with large shoulders, medium to well-filled and large in size and length.

Scarlet Royal – Available July-November (approx.) from California:

Patented (U.S. Plant Patent No. PP16229). Released in the U.S. in 2005 as a result of a cross of complex hybrids. The Scarlet Royal variety is a mid-season red seedless grape with medium, oval berries. The flavor is neutral. The skin is medium to thick and adheres to the firm, meaty flesh. The clusters are conical, medium to well-filled and large in size and length.

Autumn King – Available September-January (approx.) from California:

Patented (U.S. Plant Patent No. PP16284). Released in the U.S. in 2005 as a result of a cross of complex hybrids. The Autumn King variety is a late-season white seedless grape with very large, cylindrical berries. The flavor is neutral. The skin is medium in thickness and adheres to the firm, meaty flesh. The clusters are conical to cylindrical, medium to well-filled and medium in size and length.

Source of Variety Descriptions:

USDA Notices of Release (available upon request).