

CULTIVAR PROFILE

La Crescent (luh CREH-sant)

BY C. Oliver, and H. Caspari, 7/2025

DRAFT

St. Pepin X Swenson selection of *V. riparia* x Muscat Hamburg
Interspecific Cross *Interspecific Cross*

Commercially released 2002 by University of Minnesota Grape Breeding Program, MN, USA

Descriptor

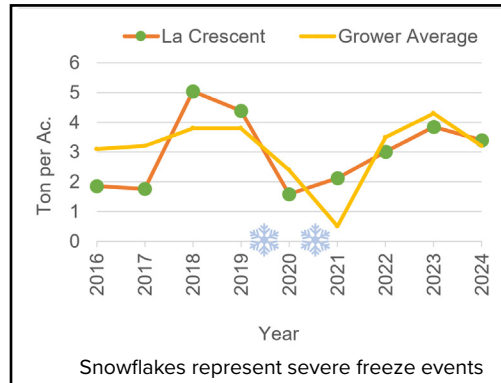
La Crescent is a UMN grape breeding program release with a complicated background comprised of 45 % *Vitis vinifera*, 28 % *Vitis riparia*, 10 % *Vitis rupestris*, *labrusca*, and *aestivalis*. It has become very popular in the US Midwest for its cold hardiness. Clusters are moderately-sized, loose with medium-size berries. Leaves have 3 mild lobes and pronounced sawtoothing on the edges.

Growing Practices

Vines are vigorous with a semi-upright growth habit, making it suitable for both vertical shoot positioning and highwire trellising systems. The fruit is highly attractive to birds and requires early bird netting.

Concerns

La Crescent frequently produces



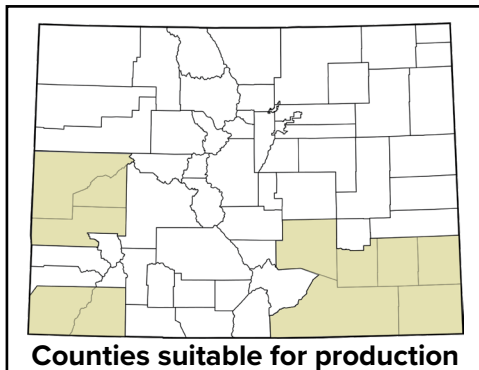
non-fruitful bull canes and can be prone to cluster shatter before harvest, which can be an issue for mechanical harvesting. Leaves are moderately susceptible to powdery mildew but mild sulfur sensitivity has been observed in hotter temperatures after repeated applications.

Colorado Research

La Crescent has been tested in one CSU test plot at an off-site, grower/collaborator location in Clifton since 2014. The vines have weathered two extreme frost events, with 100% of vines surviving since planting in 2014. However, trunk damage and dieback to the ground has been observed following one of those events. Bud cold acclimation in fall appears to be later than that of other MN varieties such as Itasca and Marquette.

References

1 Cochran, D., et. al. 2014. HORT 3040 p. 69-70



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Grand Valley Growth Profile

- Early budbreak
- Early season ripening
- Aug 30th harvest
- 3.0 ton/ac average yield
- Medium cluster size

Cold Hardiness

- -21 to -30 °F

Flavors

- Muscat derivative
- Tropical fruits and apricot

Juice Metrics

- 26.6 Brix
- 9.7 q/l titratable acidity
- 3.2 pH



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