

CULTIVAR PROFILE

Vidal blanc (vuh-DAAL blaangk)

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DRAFT

Ugni blanc X Rayon d'Or
Vitis vinifera French-American Cross

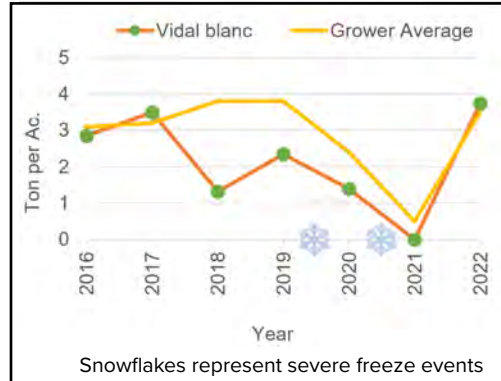
Commercially released 1952 by Jean-Louis Vidal, French viticulturist

Descriptor

Vidal blanc was originally developed for the production of Cognac in France but has been found to be much more versatile. It is now a popular variety throughout the MidAtlantic and Midwest. Leaves have three mild lobes with heavy sawtoothing. Clusters are long and tapering with small, thick-skinned berries that gain a peach-colored tint as they ripen.

Growing Practices

The vine naturally grows mostly upright so a low wire is adequate for trellising with an upright vine position but the moderate vigor makes highwire trellising possible. Fruit thinning is a necessity to prevent over-cropping because it produces more clusters than it can properly mature. One attribute that contributes to the cold hardiness is the ability of the basal buds to carry



a whole crop to harvest. Vines are also tolerant of phylloxera and do not require grafting.

Concerns

Despite having native North American grape heritage, Vidal blanc is very sensitive to powdery mildew on clusters and leaves. Take care when designing pest management programs since this variety is very sensitive to sulfur¹.

Colorado Research

Vidal blanc has been tested at one CSU test plot at the Rogers Mesa station since 2008. The vines have weathered multiple extreme frost events, with 92% of vines surviving since planting.

References

1 Dami, I. 2023. Ohio State University Extension ANR-0138.



Photo credit: Charlotte Oliver

Grand Valley Growth Profile

- Medium-late budbreak
- Late-season ripening
- Oct 15th harvest
- 2.7 ton/ac average yield
- Large berry and cluster size

Cold Hardiness

- -17 to -27 °F

Flavors

- Fresh fruits
- Melon and citrus peel

Juice Metrics

- 23.9 Brix
- 8.1 q/l titratable acidity
- 3.3 pH



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