

# RELATIVE DISEASE RATINGS FOR WINE



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT  
**FRUIT PROGRAM**

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Disease incidence and severity on winegrape varieties are the result of a number of factors including the grape variety's genetics, the amount of inoculum present in the vineyard, and the environmental conditions at specific growth stages of the plant during the growing season. The "susceptibility" of the grape plant is primarily affected by its genetics but, there is also an age-related component (i.e., a young leaf may be more susceptible to infection by a specific pathogen than an older leaf or a young berry may be more "resistant" to infection than a ripe berry, etc.). The terms "susceptibility" and "resistant" are relative terms: the more susceptible a plant or plant part is, the less resistant it is (Fig. 1). How susceptible/resistant a winegrape variety is to the various diseases is a factor to consider in making disease management decisions.

Fig. 1. Resistance vs. Susceptibility



The following table is a compilation of disease ratings from the resources listed at the end of the table and from observations made in Vermont vineyards. It should be used only as a *relative guide of the risk of disease*. The disease risk may vary depending on the specific conditions of your vineyard. Also note that this table does not differentiate between the susceptibility of the various parts of the vine to disease (i.e., leaves may be very susceptible but berries may be more resistant, etc.) As time goes on and we have more experience with wine grape varieties under differing conditions, this table will be updated. View it as a work in progress.

If you find that a winegrape variety is more susceptible to a specific disease than the rating indicates, please send me an email ([terence.bradshaw@uvm.edu](mailto:terence.bradshaw@uvm.edu)) and let me know.

**Ratings:** + slightly susceptible; ++ moderately susceptible; +++ highly susceptible

	Black Rot	Powdery Mildew	Downy Mildew	Botrytis	AngularLeaf Scorch	Phomopsis	Anthraco
Baco Noir	+++	++	+	+++	++	+	?
Bianca	++	+	++	+	?	?	?
Brianna	+++	++	?	++	?	++	++
Cayuga White	+	+	++	+	++	+	?
Crimson Pearl	+	+	?	+	?	+	
Frontenac	+++	+++	+	++	++	+	+
Frontenac Gris	++	+++	+	++	?	+	+
Itasca	++	+	?	+	?	?	?
La Crescent	+++	+++	+++	+	++	+	+++
La Crosse	+++	++	+++	+++	?	++	+
Leon Millot	+	+++	+++	+	+	+	+
Louise Swenson	+	+	+	+	++	?	++
M.Foch	++	++	+	++	+	+	++
Marquette	+++	+++	+	+	+	+	+++
PetitebPearl	+	++	?	+	?	++	
PrairiebStar	++	+	+++	+++	++	?	++
Riesling	+++	+++	+++	+++	+	++	?
Sabrevois	+	+	+	+	?	?	?
St. Croix	+++	++	++	++	++	?	+
St. Pepin	+	+++	++	++	+	?	?
Seyval	++	+++	++	+++	++	++	?
Swenson Red	+	++	+++	++	++	?	?
Swenson White	+	++	++	+	+++	+	+++
Traminette	++	+	+++	+	+	?	+
Verona	++	++	?	+	?	+	?
Vidal	++	+++	+++	+	+	+	+++
Vignoles	+	+++	+++	+++	++	++	+++

\*Resources: Midwest Grape Production Guide, Bulletin 919, OSU, 2005; New York and Pennsylvania Pest Management Guidelines for Grapes: 2006; "Characteristics of Cold Hardy Grape Cultivars", Dr. Paul Domoto, Iowa State University, 2007; and Observations from Vermont vineyards. Note: Where there were differing ratings, the more susceptible rating was used.

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