

'Opportunity'

Average harvest date for 'Opportunity' was Aug. 30 in west-central Arkansas. Juice pH averaged 3.5, titratable acidity averaged 0.5%, and soluble solids averaged 17.3%. Yield of 'Opportunity' averaged 24 lb/vine. Crop ratings averaged 7.7 (1-10 scale, 10= highest yield) a reflection of good crop and consistent cropping observed in most years. Cluster weight averaged 234.3 g. Clusters were rated very full with berries attached very tightly. Berries averaged 2.7 g. Fruit cracking was not observed for 'Opportunity' following summer rains near harvest.



Rating for vigor averaged 7.2 (on a 10-point scale), reflecting medium-high, but not excessive, vigor. Health of the vines was consistently rated good also, averaging 7.4.

Observations each year included examination of the vines for presence of diseases. It should be noted that the vines were sprayed with a commercial fungicide program up until late June to early July each year. Some rotting of berries was observed in many years particularly near harvest. This is likely due to the extended period from the last fungicide spray applied until harvest, plus the tight cluster architecture that contributes to bunch rot. Careful control of rot nearing harvest will need to be undertaken to ensure disease-free fruit of 'Opportunity'. In over 20 years of observation, powdery mildew was seen on leaves in two years, and even in the very severe powdery mildew year of 2015, only slight leaf infection was noted. Downy mildew was not observed on the vines, even in the severe infection year of 2013 when this disease was very common in the research vineyard on other genotypes. Neither, black rot nor anthracnose were noted on the vines, but these earlier-season diseases were likely controlled by fungicide applications and no resistance is implied for these. It is hoped that the minimal observation of common diseases reflect the potential to manage disease pressures with average or possibly slightly reduced applications of fungicides.

The adaptation of 'Opportunity' to the climate at FRS was found to be very good, and reflective of its potential for reliable production in the Mid-South. Winter injury was not observed during its testing, reflecting good hardiness for this location.

Juice and wine quality of 'Opportunity' was consistently good for wine production as reflected by composition. For wine production, the soluble solids of this juice occasionally needed to be adjusted, but the pH and titratable acidity were ideal. The yield at crush was 15 lb of grapes for one gallon of juice, similar to other white wine grapes in Arkansas. Fermentation should be done at 60°F to retain fruity characteristics of the wine.