

What are seedless table grapes?

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GRAPES

Grapes are one of the most commonly produced fruit crops in the world and an important fruit commodity that allows good profits to producers.

According to their characteristics, grapes can be considered for different uses:



Wine production

(varieties with higher acidity and moderate sugar content)



Fresh consumption

(varieties with low acidity, low sugar, and specific standards of size, color, and shape)



Raisins

(varieties with low acidity and high sugar).

In the last years cultivation and consumption of table grapes (*Vitis vinifera* L.) has increased considerably, mainly due to seedless varieties.

Consumers appreciate the absence of seeds and are willing to pay more for sweeter and more firm seedless grapes.

SEEDLESS TABLE GRAPES

For many people the term “seedless” has a negative connotation, associated with adverse health effects or even genetic manipulation. Seedless grapes exist naturally or may be manipulated by plant breeders without using genetic engineering techniques.

There are records of this type of grapes since the 19th century! By 1920 the Thompson grape was the first commercially available seedless grape.

Mechanisms of Seedlessness

Parthenocarpy: when the ovary can develop without fertilization of the ovum

Stenospermocarpy: embryo abortion occurs after fertilization, and partially developed seeds or traces of seed are visible

In recent years, the post-harvest research group at the University of Évora has developed several studies, in collaboration with regional enterprises, in the characterization and quality evaluation of several varieties of seedless table grapes.

For more information about seedless table grapes and work developed, consult:



SCAN ME

Shelf-life of seedless grapes is expected to be longer than seeded fruits, because seeds produce hormones that activate senescence.

VARIETIES

The most widely commercialized seedless table grapes varieties in the world are Thompson seedless (first seedless variety cultivated in the world), Sugraone, Autumn crisp, Crimson, Flame and Autumn Royal.

