

Seaway Coldhardy Grapevine Nursery Newsletter

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It is hard to believe that we are in the seventh year since the idea of developing a Coldhardy grapevine nursery in Northern New York began. Many growers across this area of the country are seeing the benefits of growing grapes and other fruiting plants that were previously thought impossible to thrive in this climate.

We want to thank everyone who helped us get to this point. We continually strive to upgrade our business and seek ways and means of linking with others, interested in this enterprise. At Seaway Coldhardy Grapevine Nursery we stress the importance of supporting our local producers and what fruit production does for this growing need for self-sufficiency, hobby and local agriculture development. Fertile, but idle, farmlands are once more gaining prominence in agricultural production.

One of many of our efforts to promote grape and fruit growing was achieved when our offer to supply free vines to a school's ag program was accepted. This educational project was undertaken at the Belleville-Henderson CSD. The following letter written by a student in the program summarizes the sense of accomplishment for the project by the students and teachers,

"Dear Mr. Smith, Thank you for the free grape vines for our school. The varieties we got were bluebell and Swenson red. We built a grape arbor in our elementary garden. We are excited to see them grow. I was part of the group that came to Theresa to help prune grapes for the soldier. It was a lot of fun. Again thank you for the generous gift to our FFA. Sincerely, Taylor Stockwell".

Yes, a volunteer crew went to the vines of a soldier stationed in Afghanistan and pruned vines for the family as a way to say, "thanks, for the service", he was providing us.

A third effort connects on a different educational level. Seaway Coldhardy grapevines are formulating plans to work with Jefferson Community College in the development of an educational vineyard. Vicki Quigley, Dean of the Business Division, and Hope Vickers, Professor of Hospitality and Tourism, with consultation from Denise Young, Adjunct Instructor, are spearheading efforts to bring a new Associate Degree and Certificate programs in Winery Management to Jefferson Community College.

An educational vineyard is in the works to be situated within the college campus as a way to allow students to study and learn about vine physiology and training considerations first-



Local Students from Belleville-Henderson CSD pruning a soldier's vines.

hand. This will also provide the means for JCC students to explore the winemaking characteristics of Coldhardy selections like Marquette, Frontenac, Frontenac Gris, Frontenac Blanc, and Lacrescent, etc. to name a few. Seaway Coldhardy Grapevines is a committed partner in the development of this community college resource. We plan to provide a variety of vines, our experience with them, and anything else we can do to insure this noteworthy project is a success for years to come.

We are pleased to announce we will once again be offering Frontenac Blanc this year. We at Seaway Coldhardy Grapevines are proud to be one of a few exclusive grapevine nurseries in the country to offer this exciting new Coldhardy white wine grape. From a growers standpoint, Frontenac Blanc is identical to both Frontenac and Frontenac Gris with excellent disease resistance, great crop loads, and excellent hardiness. The only difference is the fruit color mutation which expresses itself in the form of white fruit. Supplies are limited so contact us early if your interested.

For a second season, Seaway Coldhardy Grapevines will be supplying Hannaford Food Markets with four of the most notable Coldhardy Grapes to mainstream America via our vine retail packaging. Those varieties are Marquette, Frontenac, Frontenac Gris, and Lacrescent. Last years success brought positive feedback and several inquiries on growing the purchased vines. Hannaford for years has spearheaded efforts to bring locally grown and produced products to the greater community. We are grateful for their endorsement.

We encourage customers to take advantage of our other offerings this year.

Seaway Coldhardy
Grapevines

29250 Rt. 11
Evans Mills, NY
13637

315-767-5202

Our roadside farm stand is available 24/7. This spring you will find large containerized grapes, blueberries, raspberries, and rhubarb. Many of these plants are too large to ship and some of the blueberry plants are already bearing loads of berries right in the containers! They sell out quickly so if you're interested contact us at 315-767-5202 or enva@vplp.net.

Descriptors of our grape vines can be viewed at www.seawaycoldhardygrapes.com.

We have special vines in limited quantities. Should you wish to reserve any of the following listings please advise us by the first of March: Lacrosse; Stueben; NY Muscat; Concord; Mars; Price; Swenson White; ES 5-4-27; ES 10-18-30; Trollhaugen; Edelweiss; St. Pepin; Baltica.

Over the years a special group of customers have emerged that are interested in growing fig trees. We at Seaway Coldhardy Grapevines grow our own fig trees brought from the Mediterranean by our ancestors. Please contact us if you have an interest in fig production. Fig supplies are limited so order early. A user friendly pamphlet on the care and culture of containerized figs will accompany the purchase. Larger size trees will not be shipped.

In closing, we would like the opportunity to serve interested new customers and to thank those loyal friends who have supported our efforts to bring you the best quality vines and other fruiting plants. We appreciate your business and we wish you a fabulous growing season in 2012!

Sincerely,
Duane Smith and the Smith Family