UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE
WASHINGTON D.C.

and

COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION
CANBERRA, AUSTRALIA

NOTICE OF RELEASE OF THE RAISIN GRAPE CULTIVAR, SUNGLO

The Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Canberra, Australia, jointly announce the release for propagation of the raisin grape cultivar Sunglo,formerly tested as G4-74 in the USA and as Fresno 64-74 in Australia. It is being released to provide a seedless, high yielding, rain tolerant raisin grape. Sunglo resulted from the cross Calmeria x C4-37 (Muscat of Alexandria x Sultanina) made by Elmer Snyder, the first US Department of Agriculture grape breeder at Fresno, CA between 1943 and 1947. The original vine was grafted as a seedling and selected before 1951 by Snyder. Sunglo has been tested in the San Joaquin Valley of California as a late ripening table grape and in the Mildura region of Australia as a raisin grape.

Sunglo was imported and released from quarantine in Australia in 1971 and established in a 3 vine plot in the CSIRO variety collection. The performance of Sunglo as a drying variety has been monitored over 25 years, since it was included in studies by H. P. Newman and P. R. Clingeleffer, and in detail over three seasons, 1984-1986. Adequate maturities for drying, i.e. greater than 20 oBrix were generally achieved about ten days after Thompson Seedless (Sultana). Over the 25 years, cane pruned vines of Sunglo trained on a 1.0 m T-trellis have produced modest fresh yields, averaging 12.7 kg per vine (23 tons per hectare fresh weight). On average, the fruit of Sunglo was harvested on the 13th of March, had high levels of total soluble solids of 23.2 oBrix and good titratable acidity levels of 5.7 grams per liter. The average berry weight of 2.1 grams was about 25% larger than Thompson Seedless. After application of a standard alkaline, oil-in water drying emulsion and rack drying, the berries of Sunglo dried to a light golden-amber color and had a pleasant acidic flavor. Sunglo has proven to be highly rain tolerant in seasons (e.g. 2003 and 2010) when rain events, prior to harvest caused substantial losses to Thompson Seedless, due to berry splitting, berry abscission and development of bunch rots.

In Australia, a one hectare "semi-commercial" test planting of Sunglo was established on a grower property in the Mildura region in 2005. The vines, top-worked onto established 25 year old vines of Thompson Seedless grafted on Ramsey rootstock, have been managed on a tall cordon based, swing-arm trellis and the fruit trellis dried and mechanically harvested. Sunglo has proven to be very fruitful with excellent crops of 11, 13 and 8 tons per hectare of dried fruit produced in seasons 2008, 2009 and 2010, respectively. In common with Thompson Seedless, the trellis dried fruit did darken during drying, prior to harvest following a number of rain events in season 2010. Observations during commercial processing of the dried fruit indicated that capstems were easily removed and that skin damage was minimal, provided the processing equipment was adjusted correctly.

Sunglo is not recommended for California because its late maturity is likely to lead to problems with slower drying associated with the larger berry compared to Thompson Seedless and potential impacts of rain events in the fall period.

Genetic material of this release has been deposited in the National Plant Germplasm System where it will be available for research purposes, including breeding and development of new cultivars. Certified virus free propagation material is not available in the United States. Contact D.W. Ramming, USDA/ARS/CDPG, 9611 South Riverbend Avenue, Parlier, CA 93648 for information concerning availability of material for research purposes. For propagation material of Sunglo in Australia contact Peter Clingeleffer, CSIRO, Merbein, Victoria 3505.

Signatures:

Chief, Plant Industry
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

23/12/2010
Date

K Simmons

Deputy Administrator, Crop Production and Protection
Agricultural Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture

12/30/2010
Date