



CALIFORNIA
TABLE GRAPE
COMMISSION

392 W. Fallbrook Avenue
Suite 101
Fresno, California
93711-6150
Phone: 559-447-8350
Fax: 559-447-9184
grapesfromcalifornia.com

News Release

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Contact: Nick Nakashian
nick@grapesfromcalifornia.com

100 Years of Table Grape Breeding Celebrated

Fresno, CA – Celebrating 100 years of scientific development that resulted in the creation of many new table and raisin grape varieties, the California Table Grape Commission (commission) joined local, regional, and national USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) officials, growers, and public and private stakeholders to commemorate the anniversary and decades of successful partnership.

“The California table grape growing community has partnered with ARS since 1981 to develop new varieties, and since 2001 to protect and commercialize them in the U.S. and grape growing countries around the world,” said Ross Jones, commission senior vice president and chief science and technology officer. Jones spoke on behalf of the commission and the growers it serves during the recent 100th anniversary ceremony at San Joaquin Valley Agricultural Sciences Center in Parlier.

Jones recognized the accomplishments of breeders Dr. David Ramming, Dr. Craig Ledbetter, and members of their teams stating, “they have worked to bring the hopes and dreams of generations of growers to fruition through the development of the kind of new cultivars that changed the trajectory of individual farming operations and the expectations and eating habits of consumers around the world. It is not an overstatement to say that this program changed the table grape industry and the world of table grape breeding. The new varieties that have emerged have, without question, helped the table grape farming community be sustainable and competitive.” USDA-bred table grape varieties accounted for 36 percent of the volume California table grape growers produced in 2022.

Jones said the celebration commemorating the past represents the launch point for the next level partnership planned between ARS and the table grape growing community through the commission.

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A photo of Ross Jones speaking at the event is included with this release. A higher resolution copy is available upon request.

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