

## SUNPREME

Through the cooperative efforts of the California Raisin Marketing Board, USDA/ARS and principal investigator, David Ramming a new raisin grape varietal will be available to growers soon.

Sunpreme is an early-ripening white seedless grape which consistently ripens during the first half of August with a brix of 21<sup>o</sup> or higher. Sunpreme blooms a few days before Thompson Seedless. Clusters are medium in size, conical and loosely filled, averaging two per shoot. Green berries average 2.6 – 2.9 g fresh weight, slightly larger than Thompson Seedless. **Fruit dry into raisins on the vine without cutting canes for mechanical harvest by the first to second week of October.** The application of regulated deficit irrigation promotes the drying process in Sunpreme.

Dried Sunpreme raisins have averaged 0.60 g, compared to the 0.49 g mass of Thompson Seedless. B&better percentage has averaged 89% (79 – 93 range) over the last seven years. Skin of Sunpreme is average in thickness and toughness, adheres to the flesh, being similar to Selma Pete. Raisin wrinkles are fine in Sunpreme compared to wrinkles of Thompson Seedless. The raisin is sweet with a light fruit flavor and meaty texture. Seed traces are rarely noticeable, similar to those of Thompson Seedless.

Raisin yields have averaged 4.4 T/A for mature vines trained to quadrilateral cordons, spur-pruned to a double 'T' trellis with 36" and 24" cross arms planted at 12' x 6' spacing.



Sunpreme has moderate vine vigor. The cultivar is not resistant to powdery mildew. Maintenance of proper vine vigor and prevention of over-cropping is necessary to naturally DOV the fruit. Under average growing conditions, develop cordons to ½ their normal length during the first year. Cordons can be extended to full length and single-bud spurs left on the first half of the cordon during the second year. Mature quadrilateral trained vines can be pruned to 56 two-bud spurs to produce a full crop that will DOV naturally.



**Contact the following nurseries for additional information and availability:**

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