



# Rubired

## Synonyms

None

## Source

Rubired is a hybrid released by H.P. Olmo of the University of California, Davis, in 1958. It was produced by crossing Alicante Ganzin and Tinta Cao. This is a teinturier variety; its berries have both red flesh and juice. Alicante Ganzin is a French hybrid created by crossing Aramon Rupestris Ganzin #4 and Alicante Bouschet, and is used primarily for breeding teinturier cultivars. Tinta Cao is a distinguished variety from northern Portugal used to make premium port wines.

## Description

**Clusters:** medium to large; well-filled to compact; medium peduncles.

**Berries:** small; round; purple with deep purple-red juice.

**Leaves:** medium; mostly entire; narrow U-shaped petiolar sinus; sharp, short teeth; upper surface glossy and waxy; leaf underside glabrous; leaf margin rolled under.

**Shoot tips:** cobwebby tip; young leaves glabrous with strong red pigmentation in shoots as well.

## Growth and Soil Adaptability

Rubired is adapted to a wide variety of soils in the San Joaquin Valley. Own-rooted vines grow vigorously in loams and loamy sands. Lower vigor may be expected on coarse, sandy soils. Rubired is more vigorous than Barbera and less vigorous than Colombard. Its growth habit is semi-upright and open. In-row spacing generally ranges from 7 to 8 feet for own-rooted vines.

## Rootstocks

Most vines in the San Joaquin Valley are planted on their own roots. Own-rooted vines exhibit some tolerance to root knot nematodes once roots are 5 months or older. Own-rooted vines are highly susceptible to the fanleaf virus host *Xiphinema index* nematode in coarse-textured, sandy soils. Freedom, Ramsey, or Harmony may be used where nematodes pose a problem.

## Clones

Since this variety is relatively new, field selections differing in viticultural performance or growth characteristics have not yet been identified. Growers should plant only virus-tested certified stock; many of the original plantings were infected with virus diseases, particularly leafroll. Two registered selections, FPS 02 and 03, are available.

## Production

Production in the San Joaquin Valley generally ranges between 8 and 12 tons per acre.



## clusters

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## berries

*Small; round; purple with deep purple-red juice.*

## Harvest

**Period:** A late-season ripening variety, typically harvested from early to late-September in the San Joaquin Valley.

**Method:** While it is easy to remove from the vine, Rubired is not popular with harvest crews due to its numerous and relatively light-weight clusters. It is easy to machine harvest with a canopy shaker, with most fruit removed as single berries and moderate juicing. Trunk shaking is also easy, with medium juicing and most fruit removed as single berries. Young vines are generally easier to harvest than mature vines.

## Training and Pruning

Rubired is trained to bilateral cordons and pruned to 14 to 16 two- to three-node spurs per vine. Basal buds are usually quite fruitful, making young vines susceptible to overcropping. Shoot thinning of 3- to 4-year-old vines prior to bloom is recommended to reduce excessive crop, decrease the number of straggly clusters per vine, and reduce canopy density. Mature vines with large crop loads tend to set straggly clusters. This facilitates the use of machine-hedge pruning and the retention of high node numbers on large, vigorous vines.

## Trellising and Canopy Management

Rubired is commonly trellised to the traditional California two-wire vertical system.

## Insect and Disease Problems

Fruit and foliage are moderately resistant to infection by powdery mildew. Fruit susceptibility to bunch rot is very low, which allows late harvest. Rubired is very susceptible to Eutypa die-back. Young vines are very susceptible to collar rot, thus the area near the trunk should be kept free from standing water or water-saturated soil. It is highly susceptible to spider mite infestations.



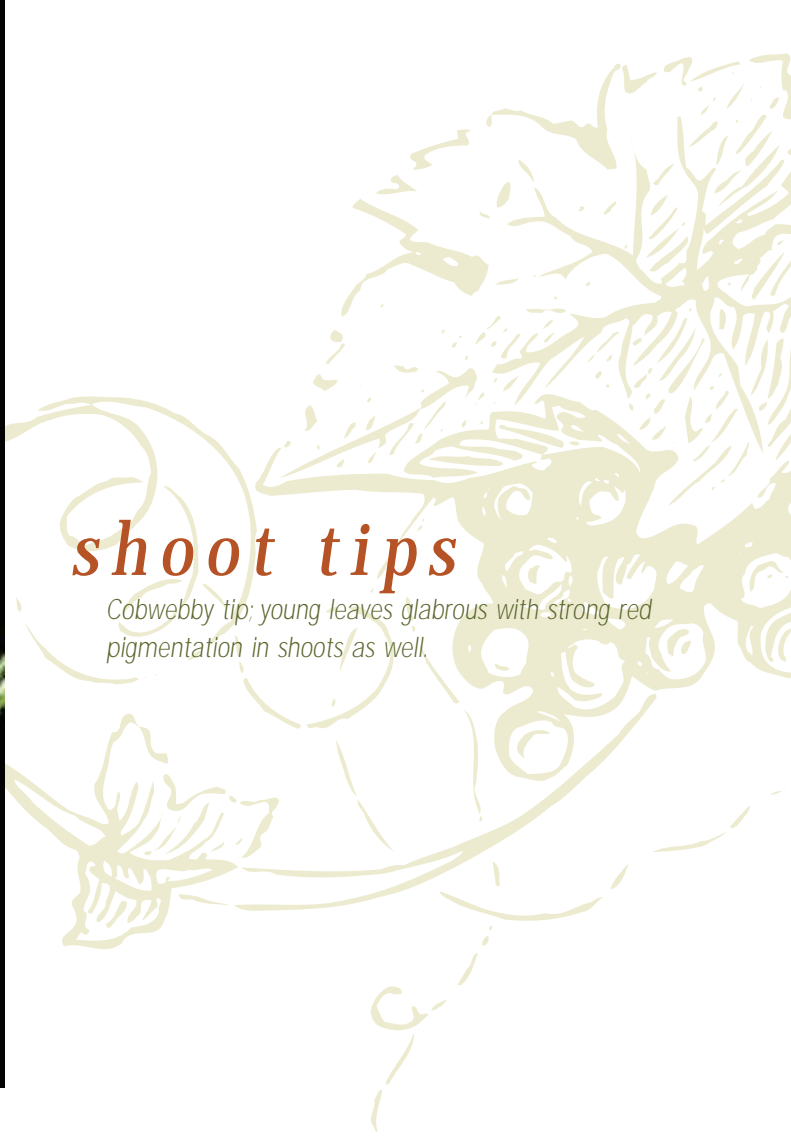
## leaves

*Medium; mostly entire; narrow U-shaped petiolar sinus; sharp, short teeth; upper surface glossy and waxy; leaf underside glabrous; leaf margin rolled under.*



## shoot tips

*Cobwebby tip: young leaves glabrous with strong red pigmentation in shoots as well.*



### Other Cultural Characteristics

Vine stress due to overcropping, insect damage, or other factors may result in delayed, erratic budbreak in the spring. This may cause the vines to enter an alternate bearing pattern, in which yields fluctuate drastically from year to year. Vine stress from overcropping also leads to poor wood maturity, increasing the likelihood of injury or vine damage due to exposure to cold temperatures during the winter. Berry shrivel may be a problem in over-ripe fruit, and yield can drop 30 percent or more in 10 to 14 days. The variety suckers readily at base of trunk.

### Winery Use

Rubired is used primarily for red juice concentrate production, commonly utilized for blending purposes in the winery, as well as for food products including fruit juices. It produces a dark red blending wine, with little character or body, and is used to increase the color of generic or varietal table and dessert wines.

—Nick K. Dokoozlian