



Grapes and Muscadines

Grapes/Muscadines

- Have been a part of Texas heritage and tradition for many years
 - Arbors part of Seaport Mansion Landscape in Galveston
 - Arbors part of Spanish Mission Courtyard in El Paso
- Many uses: juice, jelly, wine, fruit
- T.V. Munson is known as the Father of the Texas Grape Industry

Muscadines

- Grape native to East Texas
- Thrive in slightly acid soil
- Have good disease resistance
- Less than 50 acres of commercial vineyards
- Popular in gardens, on arbors, and as screens and borders
- Most varieties ripen mid-August through September in East Texas



Muscadine - Varieties

- **Regale** – very productive purple variety with medium-size fruit which begin to ripen in early August
- **Summit** – one of the most productive varieties in East Texas with very large bronze grapes. Requires a pollinator
- **Higgins** – large bronze grape that requires a pollinator and ripens in late August or early September
- **Cowart** – large purple variety that is self-fruiting

Muscadine - Varieties

- **Doreen** – green medium-size football shaped berries that does not need a pollinator and ripens from mid-September through early October
- **Carlos** – medium-sized bronze grape that is self-fruitful
- **Fry** – very large bronze grape that requires a pollinator and begins ripening in late August or early September

Muscadines – Soil and Water

- Best suited for fertile, well-drained, loamy soils of East Texas that are acid with a soil pH of 6.0
- Cannot be grown north of climatic zone 7A
- Very few disease problems
- Respond well to applications of a balanced N-P-K fertilizer such as 4-1-2 or 3-1-2
- Growing on arbors assist with harvesting and landscaping

Grapes - Diseases

- Unlike muscadines, grapes are very susceptible to Pierce's Disease (PD)
 - Clogs the vascular tissue
 - Spread by sharp-shooter insects
 - Symptoms include irregular leaf scorch, detachment of the leaf blade, die-back, vine death
 - Found in all parts of Texas, risk is greatest in East Texas, South Texas and along the Gulf Coast
 - Most European, American and French-American hybrid varieties are susceptible to PD
 - No known treatment or cure

Grapes – PD Tolerant and Resistant Varieties

- Blanc du Bois
 - Perhaps the highest quality named winegrape variety that has PD resistance
 - Also reported to have resistance to downy mildew
 - Averages about 5.5 tons of fruit per acre production
 - Berries are round, light green with a pleasant flavor
 - Typically ripens in early July along the Texas Gulf Coast



Grapes – PD Tolerant and Resistant Varieties

- Black Spanish
 - Also known as ‘Lenoir; and “Jacquez’
 - Considered the current highest quality red wine grape variety that is tolerant to PD
 - Juice is highly pigmented high in tannins and acidity
 - Subject to iron chlorosis in alkaline soils
 - Typically ripen in mid to late July in Texas coastal regions
 - Vines can yield as much as 30 pounds each



Grapes – PD Tolerant and Resistant Varieties

- Victoria Red
 - Seeded table grape that produces good yields of high-quality attractive fruit
 - Neither parents exhibited resistance or tolerance to PD
 - Primary value is for home fresh fruit production
 - May have a place in the Texas wine industry as a neutral blending wine grape



Grapes – PD Tolerant and Resistant Varieties

- Herbemont
 - Sometimes referred to as the “brown grape”
 - Produces clear juice for white wine
 - Has been used for production of port wine

