

Suwannee

An Early Bunch Grape

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'Suwannee' is being released by the University of Florida as an early ripening, wine and fresh fruit bunch grape with resistance to Pierce's disease. It can be used as a commercial or dooryard variety.

Origin

Suwannee, tested as Fla. H15-13, originated from a 1968 cross of Fla. C5-50 with Fla. F8-35 (Figure 1). Fla. C5-50 is a light green fruited, vigorous, pistillate selection with PD resistance. Fla. F8-35 is a self-fertile, purple, large fruited cultivar with slightly muscat flavor and aroma. Suwannee was first fruited in 1973 and selected for further trial in 1974 from a population of 20 segregants.

Description

Suwannee has a semi-recumbent growth habit, fairly compact, with more tendency to branch than to grow long shoots. Internodes average 6 to 13 cm in length and leaves average 16 cm long x 15 cm wide. Upper leaf surfaces are dark green, shiny, and rugose. Lower leaf surfaces are lighter green with slight pubescence. Anthocyanin pigmentation appears in stem and tendrils, with some in newly expanded leaves. Flowers are self-fertile, requiring no pollinizer cultivar for fruit set. Fruit clusters are more compact than 'Stover' and average 113 g, with 3 g berries. Bud break is 10 days later than Stover, with 82 days from bloom to harvest (compared with 92 days for Stover). Flavor and color of fresh fruit is equivalent to Stover except there is a slight muscat flavor in Suwannee. White wine made from Suwannee was rated very good (8.4) in taste panels, compared with a good (5.9) rating for Stover. Yields averaged 5.0 tons/acre (11.2 MT/ha) in tests at Leesburg (Table 1).

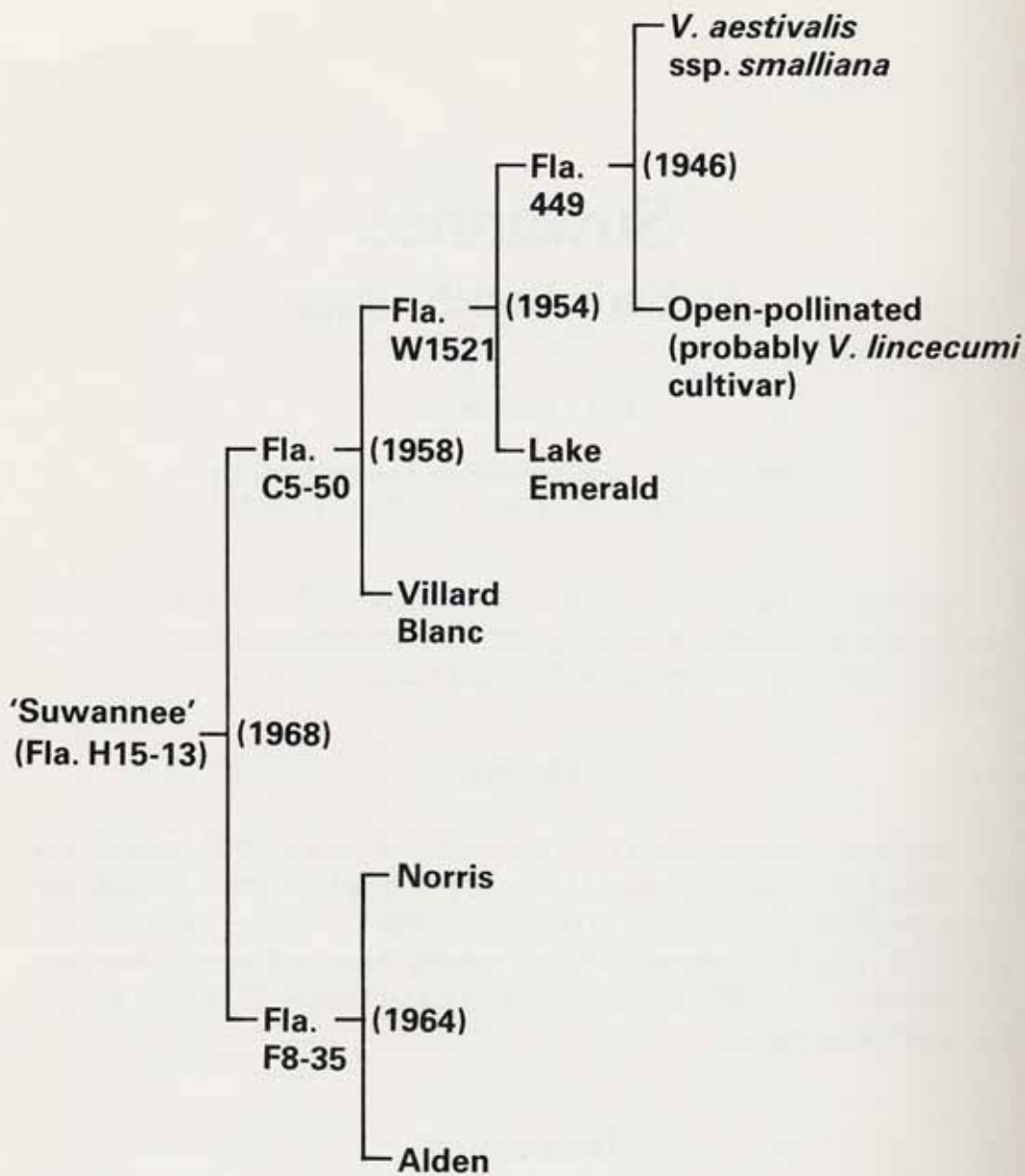


Figure 1. Pedigree of Suwannee with year of pollination in parentheses.

Table 1. Characteristics of 4 Pierce's-disease-resistant bunch grape cultivars at Leesburg, Florida, since 1977.

Cultivar	Yield (tons /acre) ^x	Bunch		Sol. solids (%)	Approx. ripe date	Color	Taste panel rating ^y
		wt. avg. (g)	Berry wt. avg. (g)				
Suwannee	5.0	113	3.0	16	7/7	Lt. Gn.	5.3
Blue Lake	5.9	122	2.0	16	7/18	Purple	3.5
Lake Emerald	5.1	184	1.8	20	7/30	Green	5.2
Stover	4.6	117	2.3	18	7/11	Lt. Gn.	5.2

^x Tons per acre multiplied by 2.24 equals metric tons per hectare.

^y Fresh fruit taste panel ratings: 0 = poor, to 10 = excellent.

Disease Resistance

Suwannee is equal to Stover in resistance to Pierce's disease, anthracnose [*Elsinoe ampelina* (deBary) Shear], and powdery mildew [*Uncinula necator* (Schw.) Burr.], with greater tolerance to ripe rot [*Glomerella cingulata* (Stonem) Spaulding & Von Schrenk] and black rot [*Guignardia bidwellii* (Ell.) Viala and Ravaz]. Because of susceptibility to *Isariopsis* leaf blight and partial susceptibility to downy mildew [*Plasmopara viticola* (B&C) Berl. & deT.] and anthracnose, a preventive fungicidal spray program is recommended.

The local County Agent should be contacted for current recommendations.

Uses and Limitations

Suwannee is recommended for trial as fresh fruit and for wine in areas where Pierce's disease is a limiting factor to vine growth and longevity. Since Suwannee grows and produces well on slightly acid soils without grafting and roots well from cuttings, no rootstock is required as with Stover and 'Conquistador'. Grafting to 'Dog Ridge' rootstock is recommended on alkaline soils. Range of adaptability includes well-drained or bedded sites in Florida north of Lake Okeechobee, with probable value in Gulf Coast states. There is some tendency to form undeveloped berries in Suwannee. When mishandled as fresh fruit there is a tendency for some berries to fall off the clusters to the bottom of the container. As with Stover, the fruit is too soft for shipping to distant fresh fruit markets, but can be marketed locally.

The major advantages of Suwannee are earliness of ripening, improved berry size, later blooming that aids escape from spring freeze damage, and satisfactory performance on most soils without grafting. Since Suwannee has good quality of both fresh fruit and wine, the grower has more than one option for marketing the fruit.

Availability

Stock plants and cuttings were distributed to commercial propagating nurseries in 1983. Inquiries on availability of plants of Suwannee should be addressed to Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P. O. Box 309, Greenwood Florida 32443. Limited supplies of cuttings and plants can be obtained during the dormant season from the Agricultural Research Center, P. O. Box 388, Leesburg, Florida 32748.



This public document was promulgated at a total cost of \$1,084.75, or 13.6 cents per copy, to provide information on an early bunch grape variety developed for Florida.

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