'Tara' Muscadine Grape

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Addition index words. *Vitis rotundifolia*, fruit breeding

'Tara' muscadine grape (*Vitis rotundifolia* Michx.) (Fig. 1) was developed by the Univ. of Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station to fill the grape industry's need for a pollinizer with large, bronze-colored fruit with a high percentage of dry stem scar. This vigorous cultivar has produced high yields of good-quality fresh fruit.

Origin

'Tara' originated as a sibling cross-'Summit' (Lane, 1977) × 'Triumph' (Lane, 1980)-that I made in 1973. I selected it in 1979 from a progeny of 37 seedlings and tested it as GA 33-8-2.

Description

'Tara' is a self-fertile cultivar with large, bronze fruit with a dry stem scar. Ripe berries weigh ≈11 g and average a 17.5% soluble solids concentration. 'Tara' fruit are similar in size and quality to those of 'Fry', the industry standard for cultivars with large, bronze-colored fruit. 'Tara' has vigorous, productive vines and is a good pollinizer, as evidenced by excellent fruit set on pistillate cultivars in its proximity. Vines are tolerant to most diseases affecting muscadine grapes except blackrot (*Guignardia bidwellii* f. *muscadinii*), which must be controlled. 'Tara' vines were not damaged by cold when the temperature dropped to -15C on 24 Dec. 1989.

Performance

Fruit characteristics and yield were evaluated for 3 years at the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station near Griffin (Table 1). 'Tara' is an early ripening cultivar; berries ripen uniformly beginning about 5 Sept. Berry

weight was similar to that of 'Fry' and significantly higher than that of its parents, 'Summit' and 'Triumph'. Soluble solids concentration of the juice was similar among the cultivars, except 'Summit', which had the highest concentration. 'Tara' percent dry stem scar was significantly higher than in the other cultivars. 'Tara' yield was significantly higher than that of 'Triumph', the only other self-fertile culti-

var in the evaluation, and equal to or better than that of the pistillate cultivars. Flavor, in my opinion, was better than that of 'Fry' or 'Triumph' but similar to that of 'Summit'. Similar fruit characteristic and yield data were obtained after evaluating 'Tara' at the Agricultural Research and Extension Center in Monticello, Fla. (data not shown).

Availability

A list of nurseries offering 'Tara' plants may be obtained from R.P.L., Dept. of Horticulture, Georgia Station, Griffin, GA 30223.

Literature Cited

- Lane, R.P. 1977. 'Summit' muscadine grape. HortScience 12:588.
Lane, R.P. 1980. 'Triumph' muscadine grape. HortScience 15:322.

Fig. 1. 'Tara' muscadine grape. Berry diameters of 25 to 30 mm are typical.

Table 1. Characteristics and yield of 'Tara' and three other fresh-market muscadine grape cultivars at Griffin, Ga., 1988-90.

Cultivar	Flower type ²	Berry wt (g)	Soluble solids concn (%)	Dry stem scar (%) ³	Flavor rating ⁴	Yield (t·ha ⁻¹) ⁵
Tara	SF	11.4 a	17.5 b	91 a	8.1 a	11.7 a
Fry	P	10.4 a ⁶	16.9 b	53 c	8.6 a	10.3 b
Summit	P	9.3 b	19.4 a	80 b	8.1 a	10.9 ab
Triumph	SF	7.8 c	17.3 b	77 b	7.1 b	9.3 c

²Flower type: SF = self-fertile; P = pistillate.

³Percentage of berries not torn at point of detachment from pedicel.

⁴Flavor ratings: 1 = poor, 2 = fair, 5 = good, 8 = very good, and 10 = excellent.

⁵Six single-vine replications for each of 3 years. Vines were in their sixth leaf in 1988.

⁶Mean separation by Duncan's multiple range test, *P* = 0.05.

Received for publication 26 May 1992. Accepted for publication 19 Oct. 1992. A contribution of the Univ. of Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station, Griffin. This research was supported by state and Hatch Act funds allocated to the Georgia Agricultural Experiment Station. The cost of publishing this paper was defrayed in part by the payment of page charges. Under postal regulations, this paper therefore must be hereby marked *advertisement* solely to indicate this fact.

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