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'Blanc Du Bois' Grape

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'Blanc Du Bois' grape was released by the Univ. of Florida as a hybrid bunch grape for use in making premium white wine. It is early ripening, resistant to Pierce's disease (PD), and grows and fruits well on its own roots (Fig. 1). The name is in honor of Emile DuBois, an accomplished grape grower and winemaker in the Tallahassee, Fla. area, who emigrated from France in 1882. DuBois spearheaded viticultural and enological efforts in Florida for 20 years.

Origin

'Blanc Du Bois' is a complex hybrid involving *Vitis vinifera* L., *V. aestivalis* Michx. ssp. *smalliana* Bailey, *V. aestivalis* ssp. *simpsoni* Munson, *V. labrusca* L., and an unknown open-pollination thought to be *V. lincecumi* Buckley (Fig. 2).

'Blanc Du Bois' originated as one of 19 segregants from a 1968 cross between Florida D6-148 and 'Cardinal'. Florida D6-148 was a PD-resistant selection with purple fruit selected from 95 seedlings of a self-pollination of Florida A4-23. 'Blanc Du Bois' was transplanted to the vineyard in 1970, first fruited in 1973, and was selected in 1974 as Florida H18-37.

Description

'Blanc Du Bois' grows vigorously with a semi-erect branching growth habit. Leaves are pentagonal, averaging 9 cm long × 12 cm wide. Lower leaf surfaces are dull green with sparse hairs; upper surfaces are dark green and moderately rugose. Petioles are shorter than the main vein of the leaf blade, and the petiolar sinus is open. Internodes vary from 4 to 10 cm in length, and tendrils are discontinuous and branched. Fruit normally are borne on the second and third nodes of the shoot. Flowers are self-fertile. Fruit clusters are moderately compact, with enough space between berries for good spray penetration. On average, clusters weigh 133 g and berries 2.9 g, with 45 to 55 berries per cluster. Berries are round, light green, slip-skin, juicy, with muscat flavor. Seeds per berry average 3.2. 'Blanc Du Bois' ripens its wood to a brown color, and roots readily from dormant cuttings. Budbreak occurs early from a relatively high percentage of buds, affording fruit yields of 11.9 $t \cdot ha^{-1}$ (Table 1).

'Blanc Du Bois' is resistant to PD, rarely showing symptoms. It is also resistant to downy mildew [*Plasmopara viticola* (B & C) Berl. & de T.], *Isariopsis* leaf blight, and grape leaf folder moth (*Desmia funeralis* Hubner). It is susceptible to anthracnose [*Elsinoe ampelina* (de Bary) Shear], black rot [*Guignardia bidwellii* (Ell.) Viala & Ravaz], bitter rot [*Melanconium fuligineum* (Scrib. & Viala) Cav.], and ripe rot [*Glomerella cingulata* (Stonem) Spaulding & Von Schrenk] and therefore requires a preventive spray program with fungicides. 'Blanc Du Bois' is tolerant of root-knot nematodes; therefore, grafting is needed only for vineyards with calcareous soils.

'Blanc Du Bois' makes a spicy white wine that was rated very good in formal taste panels at Lafayette Vineyards & Winery of Tallahassee, Fla. (1). Based on the 20-point scale and evaluation form used by the American

Fig. 1. Fruiting vine of 'Blanc Du Bois'.

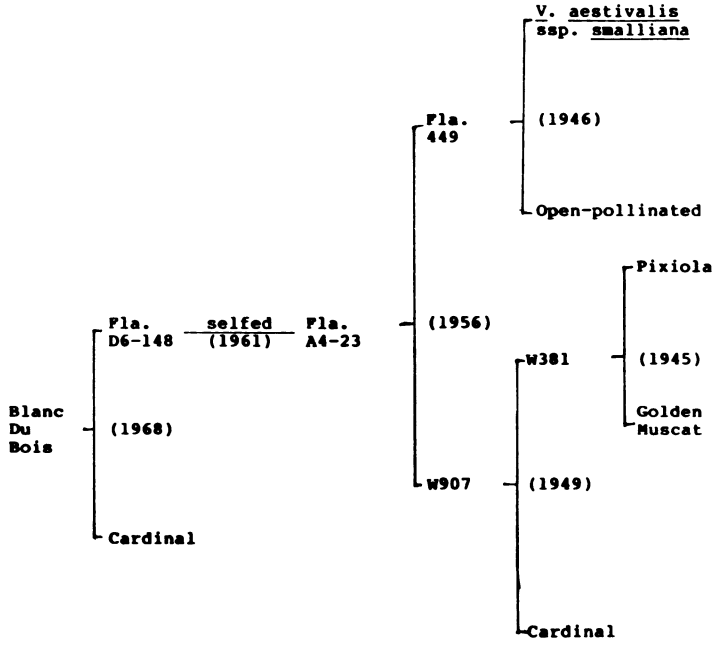

Fig. 2. Pedigree of 'Blanc Du Bois' with year of pollination in parenthesis.

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Table 1. Characteristics of 'Blanc Du Bois' compared with three other PD-resistant bunch grapes used for white wine.

Cultivar	Yield ($t \cdot ha^{-1}$)[z]	Bunch wt (g)	Berry wt (g)	Date ripe	Sol. solids (%)[z]	Titratable acidity (g/100 ml)[z]	pH[z]
Blanc Du Bois	11.9 a	133	2.9	3 July	17.4 b	.92 b	3.3 a
Lake Emerald	11.4 a	184	1.8	30 July	20.1 a	1.26 a	3.3 a
Stover (grafted)	10.3 a	117	2.3	10 July	16.1 b	.85 b	3.2 a
Suwannee	11.2 a	113	3.0	7 July	17.0 b	.89 b	3.4 a

[z]Three-year mean differences according to Duncan's multiple range test, $P = 5\%$.

Wine Society, (with 9–11 average, 12–14 good, 15–17 very good, and 18–20 excellent), 'Stover' wine rated 15.2, 'Suwannee' 15.7, and 'Blanc Du Bois' 15.9. 'Blanc Du Bois' wine received a bronze medal in the 1986 Eastern International Wine Competition and a gold medal at the 1986 North Florida Fair Wine Competition. Whereas many bunch grape cultivars grown in Florida lose character during the warm nights and hot days of ripening on the vines, 'Blanc Du Bois' maintains its fruity quality and delicate sugar : acid balance through fermentation and into the bottle.

'Blanc Du Bois' is recommended for trial as a premium white wine cultivar for the Southern U.S. Level of winter hardiness is not known, because trials to date have been limited to southern Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Florida. Regular sprays with fungicides and vineyard sanitation procedures, such as weed control and removal of all fruit from the vines, are recommended for commercial production of this cultivar. The trellis system should promote maximum air flow and light penetration around the fruit to reduce the incidence of disease.

Availability

Inquiries regarding the availability of 'Blanc Du Bois' should be directed to Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P.O. Box 309, Greenwood, FL 32443.

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'Conoy' Viburnum

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Abstract. ***Viburnum* ×*burkwoodii* Burk. & Skip. 'Conoy' is a backcross allied to such significant hybrid viburnums as *V.* ×*burkwoodii* Burk. & Skip. (2), V. ×burkwoodii Burk. & Skip. 'Park Farm Hybrid' (Burk.) (1), *V.* ×*burkwoodii* Burk. & Skip. 'Mohawk' (Egolf) (3), *V.* ×*carlcephalum* Burk, (12), *V.* ×*carlcephalum* Burk. 'Cayuga' (Egolf) (3), and *V.* ×'Chesapeake' (Egolf) (7). These viburnums of Asiatic origin are cultivated extensively for their dense growth habit, deciduous to semi-evergreen leaves, and pink to white fragrant flowers. 'Conoy' is distinct from these cultivars with compact growth habit, fine-textured evergreen foliage, and persistent, abundant, glossy, red fruit. 'Conoy' is the 18th *Viburnum* cultivar introduction from the U.S. National Arboretum shrub breeding project (4–10).**

Origin

In 1968, *V. utile* Hemsl., a species from China, was crossed with *V. utile* 'Park Farm Hybrid' (*V. carlesii* Hemsl. × *V. utile*), a hybrid developed in England. This cross combined a winter-tender, fine-textured, evergreen species with a hardy, free-flowering, semi-evergreen cultivar. Among the progeny, which at an early age displayed a wide distribution of leaf and growth habit characteristics, one plant was selected for propagation and field trial in 1976. Subsequently, plants were distributed to cooperators for regional test and stock increase, and the selection was designated the cultivar Conoy.

Description

Viburnum ×*burkwoodii* 'Conoy', NA 57259, PI 499834, is a spreading, dense-branched, evergreen shrub that in 17 years has grown 1.5 m high and 2.4 m wide (Fig. 1). The naked, densely stellate, grey tan (Greyed Green 197B and 197C) (13) buds are borne on densely stellate, pale green (Yellow Green 148C) to light grey (Greyed-Green 197) young branches that become grey brown (Brown 200D), with maturity glabrescent, later older branches and trunk, grey (Grey 201A) with prominent lenticels. The opposite, coriacious, glabrous, glossy, sparsely stellate leaves are dark green (Yellow Green 148C) in summer with dark maroon tinge (Greyed-Red 178A) in winter and densely stellate, pale olive green (Yellow Green 148C) beneath, 3.5 to 6.0 cm long, 1.7 to 2.2 cm wide, elliptic to lanceolate, acute at apex, obtuse at base, entire with a 6- to 10-mm petiole. Flowers are all similar, appearing with young leaves in late April at

Fig. 1. 'Conoy' low spreading growth habit.

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