



# MUSCADINE GRAPES

Where they are from  
and where you should plant them.

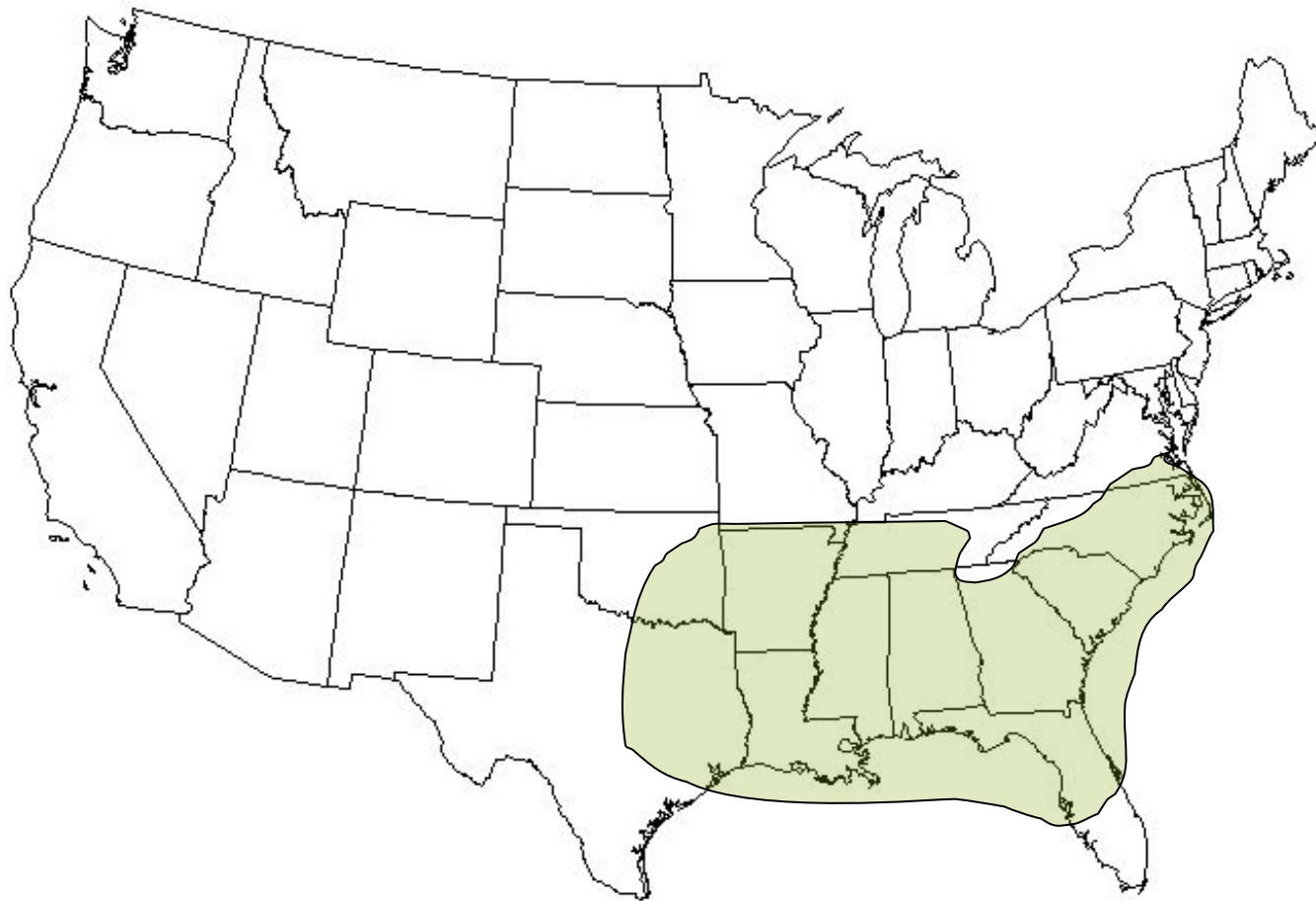
By Christopher Vincent

# SIR WALTER RALEIGH

1584 – “on the sand and on  
the green soil, on the hills  
as on the plains, as well  
as on every little shrub...  
also climbing towards the  
tops of tall cedars...in all  
the world the like  
abundance is not to be  
found”

*Vitis rotundifolia* - Muscadine





**Approximate native range and commercial distribution of muscadine grapes  
(after Olien and Hegwood, 1990; Basiouny and Himelrick, 2001)**

Over 95% of production is in coastal states (NC-LA)



# MUSCADINE GRAPES

- ◎ Mostly dark-fruited in the wild
  - ◎ Bronze-fruited types rarely occur in the wild and are often referred to as “scuppernongs”
- ◎ ‘Scuppernong’ was first muscadine brought into cultivation from the wild
  - ◎ Discovered around 1760 in NC
  - ◎ Unusual bronze-fruited cultivar



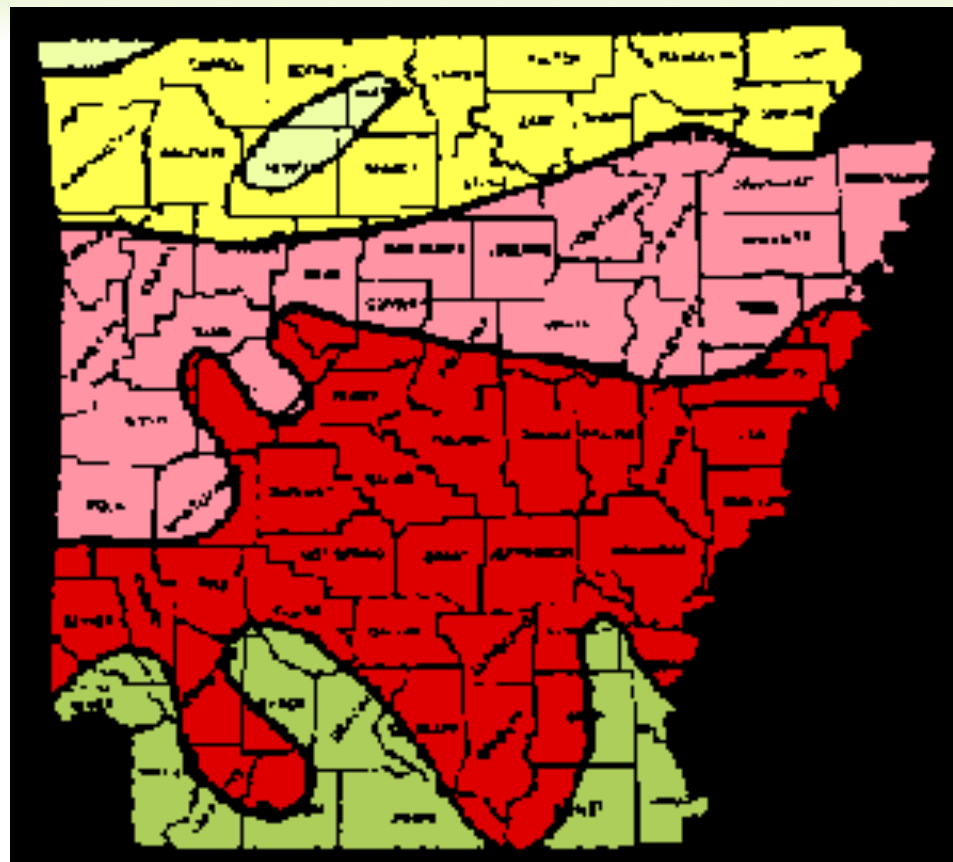
Scuppernong






# MUSCADINE GRAPES ARE ADAPTED TO THE SOUTHEAST

- ◎ Tolerant of intensive rainfall and high humidity
- ◎ Resistant to most diseases and nematodes that plague *V. vinifera* (wine grapes)
- ◎ Amenable to organic production
- ◎ High levels of phenolic compounds and antioxidant activity in fresh grapes and grape products

# SITE SELECTION - CLIMATE

## Arkansas Hardiness Zones

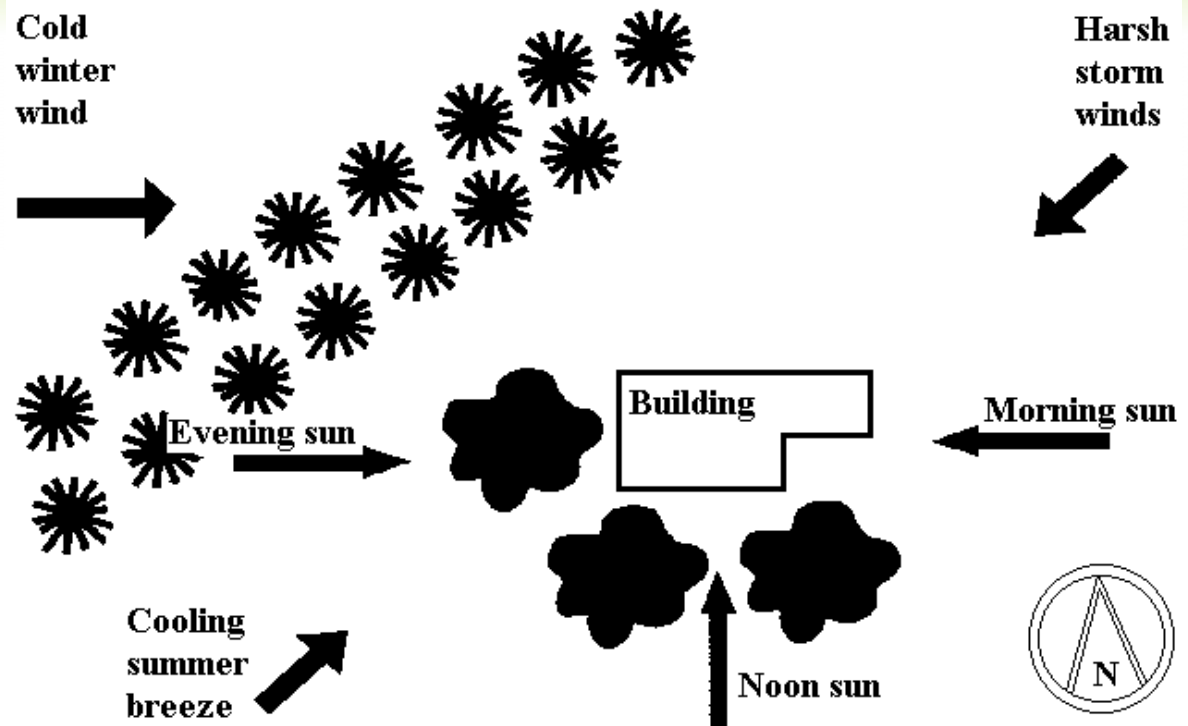


	A	B	
6			-10 to -5 / -5 to 0 F
7			0 to 5 / 5 to 10 F
8			10 to 15 F

# SITE SELECTION - CLIMATE

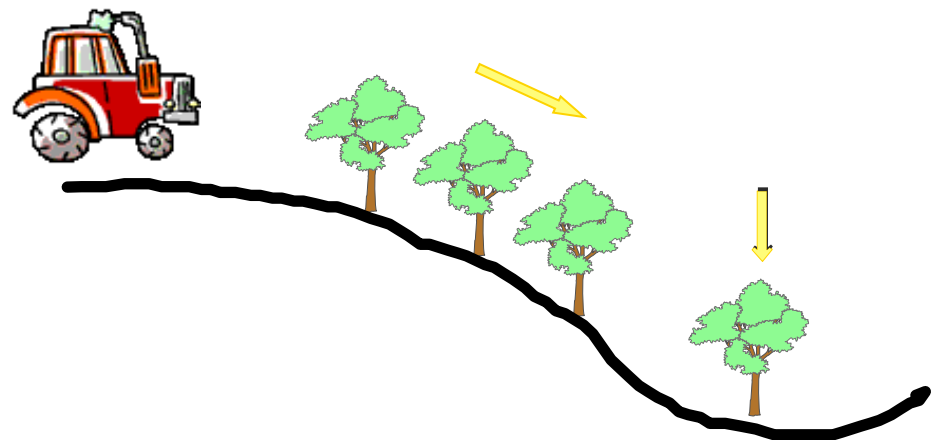
## Microclimate

- ⊙ Elevation
- ⊙ Slope
- ⊙ Air Drainage
- ⊙ Solar exposure



# PLANTING SITE

- ◎ Slope
  - ◎ A 4 to 8% slope is ideal.
  - ◎ Avoid areas at the bottom of the hill where cold air settles and frost pockets form.
- ◎ Drainage:
  - ◎ No standing water





# SITE SELECTION - SOIL AND SPACE

## Space

- ◎ At least 20' between plants in a row
- ◎ Room for males

## Soil

- ◎ Light soil preferred - drainage
- ◎ pH 5.8-6.5



# MUSCADINE GRAPES

## Practical fruit for Arkansas

- ⦿ Adapted to climate:
  - ⦿ Native plant
  - ⦿ Disease and insect resistance
  - ⦿ Tolerates heat
- ⦿ Requirements
  - ⦿ Space
  - ⦿ Moderate pH
  - ⦿ Drainage



# ANY QUESTIONS?



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