

# CONQUISTADOR

## A PURPLE BUNCH GRAPE FOR FLORIDA

J. A. Mortensen



Agricultural Experiment Stations  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences  
University of Florida, Gainesville  
F. A. Wood, Dean for Research

# Conquistador

## A Purple Bunch Grape for Florida

**J. A. Mortensen**

*Dr. Mortensen is a professor with the University of Florida  
Florida Agricultural Research Center,  
Leesburg, Florida.*

'Conquistador' is being released by the University of Florida as a multi-purpose, self-fertile bunch grape cultivar. It is recommended for trial by Florida growers. It is resistant to Pierce's disease and yields well when grafted on a satisfactory rootstock. The name is in honor of Florida's history.

### Origin

Conquistador resulted from a cross between Fla. E12-59 and Fla. E11-40 made in 1969 at the Agricultural Research Center, Leesburg, Fla. E12-59 originated as a 1963 cross between Fla. 43-47 (*Vitis aestivalis* Michx. ssp. *smalliana* Bailey, open-pollinated) and 'Concord'. The above *V. aestivalis* is native to Florida and resistant to Pierce's disease. Fla. E11-40 resulted from a 1963 cross between 'Norris' and Concord (Figure 1). Conquistador first fruited in 1973, and was selected as Fla. L4-33 among 190 segregants in 1974.

### Characteristics

Vine growth is moderate, recumbent, with 6 to 9 cm internodes. Leaves average 18 cm in length and 17 cm in width, are entire, with an undulating surface at points where sinuses would be expected to form. Leaf edges are coarsely serrated, upper surfaces are dark green, and lower surfaces light green with moderate pubescence. Some anthocyanin pigment occurs in stems and petioles. Tendrils are usually uninterrupted as in *V. labrusca* L. A mosaic pattern of light and dark green appears on some leaves of Conquistador. This appears to be an inherited trait rather than a virus infection. Flowers are self-fertile, so Conquistador requires no pollinizer for fruit set. Fruit is purple, with 118 g clusters and 2.5 g berries of slip-skin type. Flavor as fresh fruit is rated above that of cultivars currently grown in Florida (Table 1). Occasional unevenly ripened berries appear in bunches, and some bunches

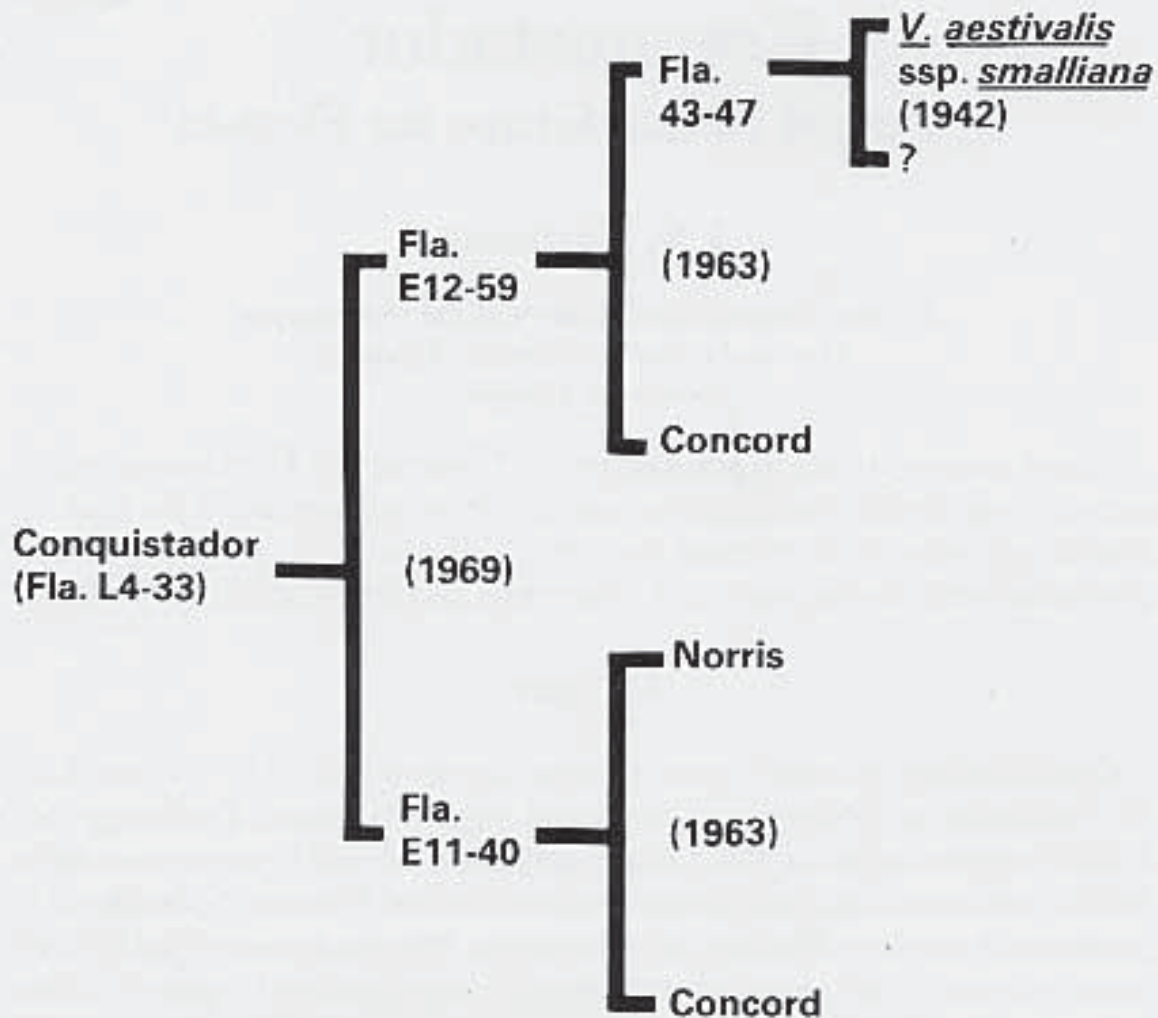


Figure 1. Pedigree of Conquistador with year of pollination in parentheses.

Table 1. Characteristics of 4 Pierce's-disease-resistant bunch grape cultivars.

Cultivar	Yield (tons /acre) <sup>2</sup>	Bunch Berry		Sol. solids (%)	Aprox. ripe date	Color	Taste panel rating <sup>3</sup>
		wt. avg. (g)	wt. avg. (g)				
Conquistador	4.4	118	2.5	17	7/18	Purple	5.4
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

<sup>2</sup>Tons per acre multiplied by 2.24 equals metric tons per hectare.

<sup>3</sup>Fresh fruit taste panel ratings: 0 = poor, to 10 = excellent.

ripen later than others. The average ripening date of Conquistador is usually the same as for 'Blue Lake' but bud break and bloom are 5 to 8 days later. Yields averaged 4.4 tons/acre (9.9 MT/ha) as grafted in vine tests at Leesburg. Conquistador produces a beautiful red wine of good taste, and holds color well through fermentation. Pasteurized juice is as near that of Concord in flavor as has yet been observed in Pierce's-disease-resistant cultivars.

## **Disease Resistance**

Conquistador is comparable to 'Stover' in resistance to Pierce's disease and ripe rot [*Glomerella cingulata* (Stonem) Spaulding & Schrenck]. It is somewhat superior to Stover in resistance to anthracnose [*Elsinoe ampelina* (deBary) Shear], downy mildew [*Plasmopara viticola* (B&C) Berl. & deT.], and black rot [*Guignardia bidwellii* (Ell.) Viala and Ravaz]. Because of susceptibility to *Isariopsis* leaf blight and the occurrence of other fungus diseases to a lesser extent, a preventive spray program is recommended. Contact your local County Agent for current recommendations.

## **Uses and Limitations**

Conquistador is recommended for wine, juice, and jelly. Fresh-fruit taste panels rate Conquistador higher than currently grown bunch grape cultivars, so pick-your-own and dooryard fresh fruit uses are also recommended. Conquistador needs careful handling for commercial fresh marketing, possibly packaging in the vineyard.

Grafting Conquistador on nematode-resistant rootstocks such as 'Tampa', 'Dog Ridge' and 'Lake Emerald' is essential for vigorous growth and best yield. Instructions on grafting are available from the Agricultural Research Center, P.O. Box 388, Leesburg, Florida 32748.

## **Major Advantages**

The major advantages of Conquistador are:

- (1) Good quality of fresh fruit, wine, and processed products.
- (2) Disease resistance that is exceptional for a bunch grape cultivar.
- (3) Several options available to the grower for marketing of fruit at harvest time.
- (4) This cultivar has a flavor nearest to 'Concord' of any Pierce's-disease-resistant grape cultivar.
- (5) Late spring frost damage is less likely to occur on Conquistador than other cultivars because budbreak is later.

(6) Yields of Conquistador are consistently high because it is self-fertile, and productive when grafted on recommended stock.

### **Availability**

Stock plants and cuttings were distributed to commercial nurseries in early 1983. Inquiries on plants are handled through Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc., P. O. Box 309, Greenwood, Florida 32443. Limited supplies of budwood or scions for grafting 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 \$1,240.79, or 15.5 cents per copy, to provide information on a new grape variety developed for Florida.

All programs and related activities sponsored or assisted by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Stations are open to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap.

ISSN 0734-8452