

## Renfrow Hardware

188 N Trade Street  
 Matthews, NC 28105  
 704 - 847 - 4088  
[www.RenfrowHardware.com](http://www.RenfrowHardware.com)  
[www.RenfrowFarms.com](http://www.RenfrowFarms.com)

# Grapes

*The best grapes suited for backyard gardeners in the NC Piedmont are the sweet slipskin grapes known as Muscadines.*

Muscadines come in two colors – “black” which is dark purple and “bronze” which is green-bronze. The bronze varieties are commonly known as Scuppernongs, though it is a misnomer and there is only one specific bronze variety officially named Scuppernong, taken directly from the centuries-old Scuppernong “mother vine” in Manteo, NC. Grapes are easy to grow and have no disease issues, but are loved by deer and birds.

**Variety Selection:** If you only have space for one vine, pick a self-pollinating variety. If you can grow multiple vines, the female varieties produce higher yields of larger fruit, but will need a pollinator to set fruit (a self-pollinating variety). One of the best pollinator types is Carlos, a bronze. See our Variety Chart and Variety Descriptions list for more details, both below.

**Site Selection & Trellising:** Grapes need full-sun and like to grow on something, be it a trellis or fence, or up a tree (like the wild grapes do). There are multiple ways to make grape trellises – ask us for some tips or grab one of the “Great Grapes” small Storey Country Wisdom booklets we sell for \$3.95 that is chock-full of great information.

**Care & Pruning:** Fertilize with organic Plant-Tone fertilizer when you plant and side-dress with more fertilizer 2 to 3 times per year after that.

Pruning every winter while the vine is dormant is ideal for a healthy plant to have large yields the following season. Pruning is not completely necessary, but will reap great rewards.

Keep area around trunk weed-free during the first few growing years, then plant a cover crop like crimson clover that will add nitrogen to the soil for the plant to utilize, and will keep weeds down. Do not spray herbicides around grape vines.

**Harvest:** late August – early September. Great for fresh eating, making jams and jellies, and juicing

## Renfrow Grape Varieties<sup>1</sup>

Self-Pollinating		Female <sup>2</sup>	
Black	Bronze	Black	Bronze
Cowart, Nesbitt, Noble, Southern Home	Carlos, Doreen, Magnolia, Tara, Triumph	Jumbo	Fry, Scuppernong

<sup>1</sup>This is a list of our most common offerings. Our fruit plants arrive in one to two large shipments in October each year, so the autumn planting season offers the best selection.

<sup>2</sup>In order to produce fruit, female grape varieties *must* have at least one self-pollinating plant nearby.

## Expanded Descriptions

*from our supplier, Bottoms Nursery*

### Self-Pollinating

**Carlos** - Bronze; Fruit are small to medium in size, ripen early to mid season, produce in clusters, ripens very evenly, is a very heavy producer, and has a dry stem scar. Carlos plants are very vigorous and cold hardy.

**Cowart** -Black; fruit are medium in size, ripen early to mid season, have very large clusters, excellent flavor, good quality, and a wet stem scar. Plants are very vigorous and disease resistant.

**Doreen** - Bronze; fruit are medium in size, ripen late, clusters, and has good flavor. Plants are disease resistant and the growth habit is very vigorous.

**Magnolia** - Bronze (White); fruit are medium to large in size, cluster, good flavor, and excellent yields. Plants are very vigorous, cold hardy, and disease resistant.

**Nesbitt** - Black; fruit are very large in size, cluster, high yields, ripen mid to late season, and a dry stem scar. Plants are very vigorous, disease resistant, and cold hardy.

**Noble** - Black; fruit are small in size, very large clusters, very high yields, ripen mid season with a wet stem scar. Plants are moderately vigorous with good disease resistance; however it is susceptible to powdery mildew. Noble is easily juiced making it a great choice for wine or juice.

**Southern Home** - Black; fruit are medium in size, loose clusters, and ripens late. Plant growth habits are vigorous and have good disease resistance. Southern Home's leaf shape is very unique when compared to other muscadines, the shape is similar to that of a maple leaf. It is highly recommended for ornamental uses such as arbors and fences.

**Tara** - Bronze; fruit are large in size, good flavor, dry stem scar, and ripen early to mid season. Plants are initially slow growing but become more vigorous after the first growing season, disease resistant, and cold hardy.

**Triumph** - Bronze; fruit are very large in size, good flavor, large clusters, good yields, dry stem scar, and ripen early. Plants have good vigor and disease resistance.

### Female

**Fry** - Bronze; fruit are very large in size, excellent flavor, large clusters, high yields, wet stem scar, normally ripen early to mid season. Plants are fairly vigorous and disease resistant. For many years Fry has been an industry standard for bronze fresh fruit.

**Jumbo** - Black; fruit are very large in size, high yields, good flavor, dry stem scar, clusters, ripen late. Plants are very vigorous and have very good disease resistance. Jumbo is one of the largest black muscadine varieties.

**Scuppernong** - Bronze; fruit are medium in size, excellent flavor, wet stem scar, ripen mid to late season. Plants are vigorous, with fair to good disease resistance. Scuppernong is the oldest cultivated variety of muscadines dating back to the 1500's.