

## **Muscadine and Hybrid Bunch Grape Research and Demonstration Vineyard**

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The Florida grape industry is among the oldest in the United States, with its first plantings coming with settlers around 1565. Muscadines (*Vitis rotundifolia* L.) are produced for the fresh market and for wine production, while hybrid bunch grapes (*Vitis* spp.) are predominantly produced for wine production. Currently, there are over 30 wineries in Florida, with a strong consumer base contributing to the state's economy. Interest in viticulture production for both fresh and processing has been bolstered by numerous positive health reports when grapes and grape products are consumed. In 2006, a muscadine vineyard was planted to two varieties predominately found throughout the Southeastern United States, 'Carlos' and 'Noble'. The vineyard is currently used for demonstration and education purposes; however planned future projects include examining current nutrition programs and developing integrated pest management programs that will minimize the development of resistance while optimizing fruit quality. In 2011, a one acre hybrid bunch grape vineyard is being established with a white variety, 'Blanc du bois' (University of Florida, 1987), and a red variety, 'Black Spanish'. This research vineyard will be used to examine several training systems and/or cropload manipulation to optimize yield and fruit quality. Data will be collected on vine growth, yield, and fruit quality to identify appropriate practices for high quality grape production in Florida. In both vineyards, the information collected will contribute to the growth and prosperity of the Florida grape and wine industry.