

Vitus rotundifolia

Muscadine



Sources:

Friends of the Louisiana State Arboretum.
Featured Species. Visit their website for more information.

Natural Resources Conservation Service. *PLANTS Database*. United States Department of Agriculture.

NC State. *North Carolina Extension Gardener Plant Toolbox*.

The Grape Family (Vitaceae)

This large, high growing vine with alternate, deciduous round or heart-shaped leaves is greenish-brown and has vertically grooved bark with tendrils for climbing.

Habitat:

Open woods.

Interesting Facts:

The fruit is commonly eaten raw or used to make jelly, jam and wine. Leaves and tendrils are also edible. Leaves are used to produce a yellow dye. Its watery sap from stem is drinkable.

Fruit:

The fruit has dark purple or bronze berries measuring 1-5" in diameter; it occurs in small, loose clusters and ripens in late summer.

Flower:

The flowers are small, greenish-white flowers appearing in axillary panicles (clusters from a leaf bud) in late spring.

Wildlife value:

Its fruits are eaten by songbirds, ruffed grouse, wild turkeys, small mammals, squirrels, white-tailed deer, raccoons, foxes and black bears. Thickets provide nesting cover for songbirds. Bees and other pollinators enjoy the nectar from the flowers.