Indigocrisp: A new southern highbush blueberry from UF-IFAS

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December 20, 2013
UF Variety Release

• Must adhere to current UF-IFAS standards
  - Tested in enough replication, locations, years, etc.
  - Chain of custody – developmental timeline, MTA agreements
  - Foundation stock
  - Plan for intellectual property protection and commercialization
UF Variety Release

• Cultivar Release Advisory Committee
  - Departmental, comprised of research and Extension
• Cultivar Release Committee
  - IFAS

Once the variety is approved by these two committees it is considered “Released”.

Variety is commercially available only when licenses for propagation have been offered.
UF Variety Release

• After release, Florida Foundation Seed Producers, Inc. handles commercialization for the University of Florida.

• Patent/trademark application filed
• Licensing strategy developed
• Licenses for propagation in Southeastern U.S. offered
• Upon request for other territories worldwide, Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) is considered
Indigocrisp™
‘FL98-325’ – (USPPAF)
FL 98-325 (Indigocrisp™)

FL 98-325 is an early maturing crisp-textured genotype best adapted to areas with chilling requirements similar to or higher than Gainesville, FL. The key positive attributes for FL 98-325 are:

• Very firm, crisp texture similar to Bluecrisp and Sweetcrisp
• Earlier maturing than either Bluecrisp or Sweetcrisp
• Higher yields than existing crisp textured genotypes
• Potential for machine harvest for fresh market production
• Reduced postharvest bruising or pathogen damage
• Good flavor and size
• Good vegetative budbreak with high crop loads
FL 98-325 (Indigocrisp™)

Potential problems with FL 98-325:

• Higher chill requirement means limited potential in expanding production areas in Florida (I-4 south).
• Propagation by softwood stem cuttings has often resulted in low rooting percentages.
• Moderately susceptible to *Botryosphaeria* stem blight
• Darker fruit color
Additional Information


• Machine harvested fruit with crisp texture (including FL 98-325) had the same or lower postharvest disease incidence as hand harvested conventional texture fruit.


• FL 98-325 had the highest packout percentages after machine harvest (94% - similar to hand harvest)
Summary

• FL 98-325 is an early-maturing, crisp genotype which will add another machine harvest for fresh market suitable variety to the short list currently available to Southeastern blueberry growers.

• Unreliable propagation has been the biggest difficulty in the past. We hope to minimize this problem by making tissue culture plantlets available at the time licenses are offered.

• FL 98-325 consistently ranks higher in yield than other crisp-textured genotypes, and the sugar/acid ratio beats many current varieties.
UF Blueberry Breeding and Genetics

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