
**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The new and distinct grapevine described and claimed herein originated from a hand pollination of the Autumn Royal variety (USDA non-patented) and bulked pollen derived from several un-named red seedless selections from the Volcani Institute hybridized in May 2001. It is unknown which selection was the actual paternal parent. The abortive seed traces were subsequently embryo cultured and the resulting plant was planted in the field in April 2002. The present variety of grapevine was selected as a single plant in September 2004 and was first asexually propagated by hardwood cuttings in December 2005 near Delano, Kern County, Calif. The resulting propagules were planted during April 2006 at the International Fruit Genetics LLC research facility near Delano, Kern County, Calif. and were found to reproduce true-to-type through at least one generation of asexual reproduction.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The new grapevine ‘IFG Seventeen’ is characterized by producing naturally large, narrow elliptic, black seedless berries which are firm in texture and ripen late in the growing season. Fruits normally ripen late September to early October near Delano, Calif.

To the inventor’s knowledge, the known variety which the new grapevine variety is most similar to is its parent the Autumn Royal variety. ‘IFG Seventeen’ can be distinguished from the Autumn Royal variety by having a much smaller residual seed trace, by having no tendency to develop an astringent flavor and by having higher, more consistent yields. ‘IFG Seventeen’ tolerates rain during the ripening season better than the Autumn Royal variety. The canes of ‘IFG Seventeen’ are more flexible and less brittle than the Autumn Royal variety reducing damage during pruning and other cultural operations. The berries of ‘IFG Seventeen’ are smaller than the Autumn Royal variety but color more easily. ‘IFG Seventeen’ can be distinguished from ‘IFG Sixteen’ by having a more elongated berry and by having a narrower cluster. The Berries of ‘IFG Seventeen’ are smaller but firmer than ‘IFG Sixteen’ and they color more easily than ‘IFG Sixteen’.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE FIGURE**

The accompanying photographic illustration in FIG. 1 illustrates in full color ‘IFG Seventeen’. The photograph was taken outdoors with indirect lighting. The colors are as nearly true as is reasonably possible in a color representation of this type.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION**

Throughout this specification, color names beginning with a small letter signify that the name of that color, as used in common speech, is aptly descriptive. Color names beginning with a capital letter designate values based upon R.H.S. Colour Chart, published by The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England.

Throughout this specification subjective description values conform to those set forth by the International Plant Genetic Resources Institute publication ‘Descriptors for Grape’ (*Vitis* spp.) (1983) which was developed in collaboration with the Office International de la Vigne et du Vin (OIV) and the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV).

The descriptive matter which follows pertains to ‘IFG Seventeen’ plants grown in the vicinity of Delano, Kern County, Calif. during 2011 and 2012 and is believed to apply to plants of the variety grown under similar conditions of soil and climate elsewhere:
Vine:


**Trunk.** — Trunk diameter of 4-year-old vines at 30 cm above the soil line — 7.6 cm. Shape — Stocky to medium. Straps — Short — split. Surface texture — Medium. Inner bark color — Can be any of the following colors; Greyed orange; 177A and B.

**Shoots:**


**Woody shoot (mature canes).** — Shape — Medium thick. Internode length — Short; About 12.0 cm. Width at node — About 1.1 cm. Cross section — Circular. Surface — Striate. Main color — Can be any of the following colors; Greyed orange; 164A and B, and 165A, and 166B. Density of prostrate hairs of nodes — None. Density of erect hairs on internodes — None. Growth of axillary shoots — Medium to strong; Approximately 36.1 cm.


**Tendrils.** — Distribution on the shoot (at full flowering) — Discontinuous. Length of Tendril — Long; About 34.6 cm. Thickness — Thin. Color — Can be any of the following colors; Green; 144A and B and 146A. Form — Can be any of the following: bifurcated and trifurcated and quadrifurcated. Number of consecutive tendrils — 1.

Leaves:


**Upper surface.** — Color — Can be any of the following colors; Green; 137A and B and 139A and B. Anthocyanin coloration of main veins — Medium. Surface appearance — Semi-glossy to dull. Blistering surface of blade — Weak to medium.

**Lower surface.** — Color — Can be any of the following colors; Green; 138A and B. Anthocyanin coloration of main veins (lower surface) — Weak. Glossiness — Medium. Surface texture — Smooth. Surface appearance — Semi-glossy to dull.

**Petiole.** — Length — About 15.3 cm. Length of petiole compared to middle vein — Slightly shorter. Density of prostrate hairs on petiole — Sparse. Density of erect hairs on petiole — None. Anthocyanin coloration of petiole — Very strong.


Flowers:

**General.** — Flower sex — Hermaphrodite. Length of first inflorescence — Medium long; About 22.6 cm long by 9.6 cm wide. Position of first flowering and fruiting node — 4th to 5th node (current season growth). Number of inflorescences per flowering shoot — Up to 1. Time of bloom — Late as compared with similar varieties in the growing area of Delano, Calif. Date of full bloom — May 18, 2012.

Fruit:


**Peduncle.** — Lignification of peduncle — medium. Length of peduncle — Medium long; Approximately 5.9 cm.

**Berry.** — Uniformity of size — Uniform. Single berry weight — About 7.8 g natural. Shape — narrow ellip-
tic. Seeds — Contains small rudimentary seed traces which are not noticeable. Cross section — Circular.
Berry dimensions — longitudinal axis: About 2.8 cm.
Horizontal axis: About 1.9 cm. Berry firmness — Firm. Particular flavor — Neutral. Bloom (cuticular wax) — Medium. Berry separation from pedicel — Medium to easy. Skin color (without bloom) — Greyed-Purple; about N186A.

Skin.—Thickness — Medium. Texture. — Medium. Reticulation — Absent. Tenacity — Tenacious to flesh.

What is claimed:
1. A new and distinct variety of grapevine as herein illustrated and described.

* * * * *