



US00PP27424P3

(12) **United States Plant Patent**  
**Striem et al.**(10) **Patent No.:** US PP27,424 P3  
(45) **Date of Patent:** Nov. 29, 2016(54) **GRAPEVINE PLANT NAMED  
'SUGRAFORTYFIVE'**(50) Latin Name: *Vitis vinifera*  
Varietal Denomination: Sugrafiftyfive(71) Applicant: **Sun World International, LLC,**  
Bakersfield, CA (US)(72) Inventors: **Michael J. Striem**, Rehovot (IL);  
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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 136 days.

(21) Appl. No.: **14/121,834**(22) Filed: **Oct. 22, 2014**(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2016/0120084 P1 Apr. 28, 2016

(51) **Int. Cl.**  
**A01H 5/08** (2006.01)(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
USPC ..... Plt./205(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
USPC ..... Plt./205  
See application file for complete search history.(56) **References Cited**

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

PP23,479 P2 \* 3/2013 Striem et al. .... Plt./205

\* cited by examiner

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct grapevine variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' is characterized by the production of a medium-sized, dark berry with near black skin color and an ellipsoidal, elongated shape. The berries of 'Sugrafiftyfive' ripen early and are firm and very juicy. The new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' has a similar harvest time as 'Summer Royal' (unpatented) but the shape of the berry of the new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' is ellipsoidal elongated compared to round for 'Summer Royal'.

## 1 Drawing Sheet

## 1

Latin name of the genus and species claimed: *Vitis vinifera*.

Varietal denomination: 'SUGRAFORTYFIVE'.

## BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to the discovery and asexual propagation of a new and distinct variety of grapevine, 'Sugrafiftyfive', as herein described and illustrated. The new variety was first discovered by Michael J. Striem in July 2006 and selected as breeder number '03082-193-393' by Terry A. Bacon in Wasco, Kern County, Calif. The variety was originated by controlled hybridization.

The new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' is characterized by the production of a medium-sized, dark berry with near black skin color and an ellipsoidal, elongated shape. The berries of 'Sugrafiftyfive' ripen early and are firm and very juicy.

The seed parent is the varietal selection 'Sugrasixteen' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,749) and the pollen parent is the varietal selection 'Sugrathirteen' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,434). The parent varieties were first crossed in May 2003. The date of first sowing was March 2004, and the date of first flowering was May 2006.

The new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' was first asexually propagated in December 2007 in Wasco, Kern County, Calif., by Terry A. Bacon using hardwood cuttings.

The new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' looks similar to its pollen parent 'Sugrathirteen' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,434) and has a similar berry color. However, the two varieties differ in that the harvest start date is about July 3 for the new

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variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' compared to July 20 for Sugrathirteen (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 10,434).

The new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' has the same berry color as its seed parent 'Sugrasixteen' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,749). However, it differs from its seed parent 'Sugrasixteen' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,749) in that the berry shape is ellipsoidal and elongated for the new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' compared to ovate for the berries of 'Sugrasixteen' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,749). Additionally, the new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' ripens earlier, starting on July 3 compared to July 21 for 'Sugrasixteen' (U.S. Plant Pat. No. 11,749).

Harvest of the new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' starts at about the same time as 'Summer Royal' (unpatented) but the shape of the berries of the new variety 'Sugrafiftyfive' is ellipsoidal and elongated compared to a round shape for 'Summer Royal' (unpatented).

The new 'Sugrafiftyfive' variety has been shown to maintain its distinguishing characteristics through successive asexual propagations by, for example, cuttings.

Variations of the usual magnitude from the characteristics described herein may occur with changes in any of a variety of factors such as growing conditions, irrigation, fertilization, pruning, management and climatic variation.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING

The accompanying color photographic illustration shows typical specimens of the foliage and fruit of the present new grape variety 'Sugrafiftyfive'.

The illustration shows the upper and lower surfaces of the leaves, the grape bunch and exterior and sectional views of the fruit.

The photographic illustration was taken shortly after the fruit was picked and the colors are as nearly true as is reasonably possible in a color representation of this type. 5

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

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 The R.H.S. Colour Chart, published by The Royal Horticultural Society, London, England, 1986. 10

Many of the descriptive values in this specification are based on and conform to those set forth by the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources Institute Grape Descriptors (*Vitis* spp.) of 1983 and/or 1997, 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). 20

The descriptive matter which follows pertains to 'Sugar-fortyfive' plants grown in the vicinity of Wasco, Kern County, Calif. during 2014, and is believed to apply to plants of the variety grown under similar conditions of soil and climate elsewhere. 25

#### VINE

General: (Measurements taken on a mature vine in its 4<sup>th</sup> year from planting unless otherwise noted.) 30

*Practices*.—Gene-pool-vines: Cane pruned to approximately 6 spurs per vine. Test-vines: Cane pruned to approximately 6 spurs per vine. 35

*Size*.—Medium. Height: Medium, Approximately 2.0 m. Width: Approximately 2.2 m.

*Vigor*.—Medium.

*Fresh pruning weight*.—Approximately 6.3 kg per vine. 40

*Density of foliage*.—Medium.

*Productivity*.—Productive. Approximately 40 clusters per vine after thinning.

*Yield*.—Approximately 18 kg per vine.

*Crop load*.—Approximately 2.86 kg per vine (kg fruit per kg fresh-pruning-weight). 45

*Own root*.—Yes.

*Resistance*.—Neither resistance nor susceptibility to diseases or pests has been observed in this variety.

Trunk: 50

*Shape*.—Circular.

*Diameter*.—Approximately 86 mm.

*Straps*.—Short.

*Surface texture*.—Shaggy.

*Inner bark color*.—Near Medium Greyed-Orange 55 165C.

*Outer bark color*.—Near Dark Greyed-green 197B.

#### SHOOTS

Young shoot:

*Form of tip*.—Half open.

*Distribution of anthocyanin coloration of tip*.—Striped.

*Intensity of anthocyanin coloration of tip*.—Weak.

*Density of prostrate hairs on tip*.—Medium. 65

*Density of erect hairs on tip*.—Absent or very sparse.

Woody shoot (mature canes):

*Shape*.—Slender.

*Internode length*.—Approximately 120 mm.

*Width at node*.—Approximately 11 mm.

*Cross section*.—Circular.

*Surface*.—Smooth.

*Main color*.—About Medium Greyed-Orange 165C.

*Lenticels*.—Absent.

*Density of erect hairs on nodes*.—Absent or very sparse. 10

*Density of erect hairs on internodes*.—Absent or very sparse.

*Growth of auxiliary shoots*.—Average 17.7 cm/shoot.

Flowering shoot:

*Vigor during flowering*.—Medium.

*Attitude during flowering on shoots which are not tied*.—Semi-erect.

*Color of dorsal side of internodes*.—About Light Green 139D.

*Color of ventral side of internodes*.—About Light Green 139D.

*Color of dorsal side of nodes*.—About Light Green 139D.

*Color of ventral side of nodes*.—About Light Green 139D.

*Density of erect hairs on nodes*.—Absent or very sparse.

*Erect hairs on internode*.—Absent or very sparse.

*Density of prostrate hairs on nodes*.—Absent or very sparse.

*Density of prostrate hairs on internodes*.—Absent or very sparse.

*Anthocyanin coloration of buds*.—Absent or very sparse.

Tendrils:

*Distribution on the shoot at full flowering*.—Discontinuous.

*Thickness*.—Medium.

*Color*.—Near Medium Yellow-Green 144C.

*Form*.—Bifurcated.

*Number of consecutive tendrils*.—Up to 2.

*Length of tendril*.—Medium, approximately 9 cm.

#### LEAVES

Young leaves:

*Color of upper surface of first 4 distal unfolded leaves*.—About Medium Green 139C.

*Average intensity of anthocyanin coloration of six distal leaves prior to flowering*.—Absent.

*Density of prostrate hairs between veins at lower surface of 4th distal unfolded leaf*.—Absent or very sparse.

*Density of erect hairs between veins at lower surface of 4th distal unfolded leaf*.—Absent or very sparse.

*Density of prostrate hairs on veins at lower surface of 4th distal unfolded leaf*.—Absent or very sparse.

*Density of erect hairs on veins at lower surface of 4th distal unfolded leaf*.—Absent or very sparse.

Mature leaves:

*Average length*.—Approximately 128 mm.

*Average width*.—Approximately 150 mm.

*Size of blade*.—Medium.

*Shape of blade*.—Pentagonal.

*Number of lobes*.—Approximately 5.

<i>Anthocyanin coloration of main veins on the upper side of the blade.</i> —Absent or very faint.	
<i>Mature leaf profile.</i> —Flat.	
<i>Blistering surface of blade upper surface.</i> —Absent.	
<i>Leaf blade tip.</i> —In the plane of the leaf.	5
<i>Undulation of margin.</i> —Slight.	
<i>Thickness.</i> —Medium.	
<i>Undulation of blade between main and lateral veins.</i> —Absent or very slight.	
<i>Shape of teeth.</i> —Mixture of both straight sides and both convex sides.	10
<i>Length of teeth.</i> —Mostly Medium, irregular, varies from about 2 mm to 9 mm.	
<i>Ratio length/width of teeth.</i> —Small, about 0.7.	
<i>General shape of petiole sinus.</i> —Wide open.	15
<i>Tooth at petiole sinus.</i> —Absent.	
<i>Petiole sinus limited by veins.</i> —Absent.	
<i>Shape of upper lateral sinus.</i> —Open.	
<i>Depth of upper lateral sinus.</i> —Deep.	
<i>Density of prostrate hairs between veins on lower surface of blade.</i> —Absent.	20
<i>Density of erect hairs between veins on lower surface of blade.</i> —Absent.	
<i>Density of prostrate hairs on main veins on lower surface of blade.</i> —Absent.	
<i>Density of erect hairs on main veins on lower surface of blade.</i> —Absent.	25
<i>Density of prostrate hairs on main veins on upper surface of blade.</i> —Absent.	
<i>Autumn coloration of leaves.</i> —Varies by year, about Medium Yellow-Green 153D to Medium Greyed-Yellow 162A.	30
<b>Upper surface:</b>	
<i>Color.</i> —About Dark Green 137A.	
<i>Surface texture.</i> —Smooth.	
<i>Surface appearance.</i> —Dull.	35
<i>Glossiness.</i> —Weak.	
<i>Pubescence.</i> —Absent.	
<b>Lower surface:</b>	
<i>Color.</i> —About Medium Green 141C.	
<i>Anthocyanin coloration of main veins on lower leaf surface.</i> —Absent.	40
<i>Glossiness.</i> —Weak.	
<i>Pubescence.</i> —Absent.	
<i>Surface texture.</i> —Smooth.	
<i>Surface appearance.</i> —Dull.	
<b>Petiole:</b>	45
<i>Length of petiole.</i> —Medium, approximately 7 cm.	
<i>Length of petiole compared to middle vein.</i> —Much shorter.	
<i>Diameter.</i> —Approximately 3 mm.	
<i>Density of prostrate hairs on petiole.</i> —Absent.	50
<i>Density of erect hairs on petiole.</i> —Absent.	
<i>Color.</i> —Light Green 138D with Greyed-Orange 174B in areas where exposed to direct sunlight.	
<b>Buds:</b>	
<i>Shape.</i> —Conical.	55
<i>Size.</i> —Medium, approximately 3 mm×4 mm.	
<i>Position.</i> —Slightly held out.	
<i>Cane bud fruitfulness.</i> —Basal most fruitful, 4 <sup>th</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> bud position.	
<i>Time of bud burst.</i> —Medium, about March 1st.	60

## FLOWERS

**General:**

<i>Flower sex.</i> —Hermaphrodite.	
<i>Length of first inflorescence.</i> —Short, about 9 cm.	65

<i>Position of first flowering node.</i> —Fourth node.
<i>Number of inflorescences per shoot.</i> —Approximately 1 to 2.
<i>Date of full bloom.</i> —Approximately May 10th.
<i>Size (diameter of fully open flower).</i> —Medium, approximately 6 mm.

## FRUIT

**General:**

<i>Ripening period.</i> —Early starting about July 3 <sup>rd</sup> , with mid-ripe July 8th.
<i>Use.</i> —Fresh market.
<i>Keeping quality.</i> —Good.
<i>Shipping quality.</i> —Good.
<i>Date of first harvest.</i> —Approximately July 3 <sup>rd</sup> .
<i>Solids-sugar.</i> —Medium, about 17%.
<i>Refractometer test.</i> —Approximately 19%.
<i>Acid.</i> —Medium, approximately 0.53 gr./L tartaric acid.
<i>Juice pH.</i> —Approximately 3.5.
<i>Tendency to crack.</i> —Low.
<i>Sensitivity to sunburn.</i> —Low.
<i>Fruit shrivel after ripe.</i> —No.
<i>Secondary cluster.</i> —Occasional.

**Cluster:**

<i>Bunch size (peduncle excluded).</i> —Medium, about 450 gm.
<i>Bunch length (peduncle excluded).</i> —Medium, approximately 27 cm.
<i>Bunch width.</i> —Approximately 16 cm.
<i>Bunch weight.</i> —Medium, approximately 450 g.
<i>Bunch density.</i> —Medium.
<i>Number of berries.</i> —Approximately 95-110 berries.
<i>Form.</i> —Long Conical.

**Peduncle:**

<i>Length of peduncle.</i> —Medium, approximately 120 mm.
<i>Lignification of peduncle.</i> —Absent or very slight.

*Color.*—About Medium Green 141C.

**Berry:**

<i>Size.</i> —Medium.
<i>Uniformity of size.</i> —Uniform.
<i>Berry weight.</i> —Medium, approximately 5.6 gr.
<i>Gibberellic acid treated.</i> —Medium, 10 ppm to 20 ppm.
<i>Shape.</i> —Ellipsoidal elongated.
<i>Presence of seeds.</i> —Rudimentary.
<i>Cross section.</i> —Round.
<i>Dimensions.</i> —Longitudinal axis: Approximately 26 mm. Horizontal axis: Approximately 20 mm.
<i>Skin color (without bloom).</i> —About Black 202A.
<i>Flesh color.</i> —About Medium Greyed-Green 198B.
<i>Juiciness of flesh.</i> —Very juicy.
<i>Berry firmness.</i> —Firm.
<i>Particular flavor.</i> —None.
<i>Bloom (cuticular wax).</i> —Medium.
<i>Pedicel length.</i> —Medium approximately 7 mm.
<i>Berry separation from pedicel.</i> —Medium.
<i>Visibility of hilum.</i> —Slight.

**Skin:**

<i>Thickness.</i> —Medium.
<i>Texture.</i> —Smooth.
<i>Reticulation.</i> —Slight.
<i>Roughness.</i> —Absent.
<i>Tenacity.</i> —Tenacious to flesh.

## Seed:

*Number of seeds per berry.*—Usually 2.

*Size.*—Small.

*Color.*—About Light Green 145A.

*Texture.*—Soft.

*Endosperm.*—Slight.

*Fresh weight of seed-traces/berry.*—Approximately 15  
mg.

*Room-dry weight of seed-traces/berry.*—Approximate-  
mately 3.5 mg.

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A new and distinct variety of grapevine as herein  
illustrated and described.

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