Fig Variety Brogiotto Nero (Violette de Solliès)

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Examined and described by: Tanara (1651), Merlet (1667), Cupani (1696), Garidel (1715), Tournefort (1719), La Brousse (1774), Bernard (1787), Rozier (1805), Duhamel (1809), Gallesio (1817), Bory de Saint Vincent (1824), Risso (1826), Noisette (1829), Couverchel (1839), Semmola (1845), Dochnahl (1855), Duchartre (1857), Hogg (1866), Du Breuil (1876), Roda (1881), Soc. Pomol. de France (1887, 1947), Barron (1891), Eisen (1888, 1897, 1901), Sauvaigo (1889, 1894), Massey (1893), Mello Leotte (1901), Starnes and Monroe (1907), Tschaen (1908), Estelrich (1910), Nomblot (1913), Rolet (1916), Mazières (1920), Borg (1922), Sanchez (1922), Priego y Jaramillo (1922), Leclerc (1925), Bois (1928), Bobone (1932), Simonet et al. (1945), Simonet and Chopinet (1947), Condit (1947), Delbard (1947), Evreinoff (1947), Baldini (1953).

Synonyms: Barnissotte, Bellegarde, Bernissou Negra, Bourjassotte Noire, Bouriageotte, Brogiotto Fiorentino, Brogiotto Nero, Violette de Solliès, Negro Largo (Spain), Précoce Noire, Burjassotte Preto, Grosse Bourjassotte, Grosso Figo, Monacello, Ficus polymorpha var. depressa Gasparrini, F. carica barnissota Risso.

This is a very old fig variety, or rather it has been documented for a long time. It was described as “Fico Africano” in Pliny the Elder's natural history in 77 AD. It is widely distributed under different names in all the warmer parts of the former Roman Empire - Italy, southern France, Spain and Portugal.

In Italy, other varieties are also called Brogiotto Nero, so it is good to see at least a picture of the fruit and leaves of the mother plant to be sure which Brogiotto Nero you are getting. Very often, any approximately flat and at least brown colored fig is sold under this name, and the photos for the seller's presentation are taken from the Internet.

In the US, as early as Condit's time, many imitation varieties were being sold (which is still the case today), so US sources should be checked well.

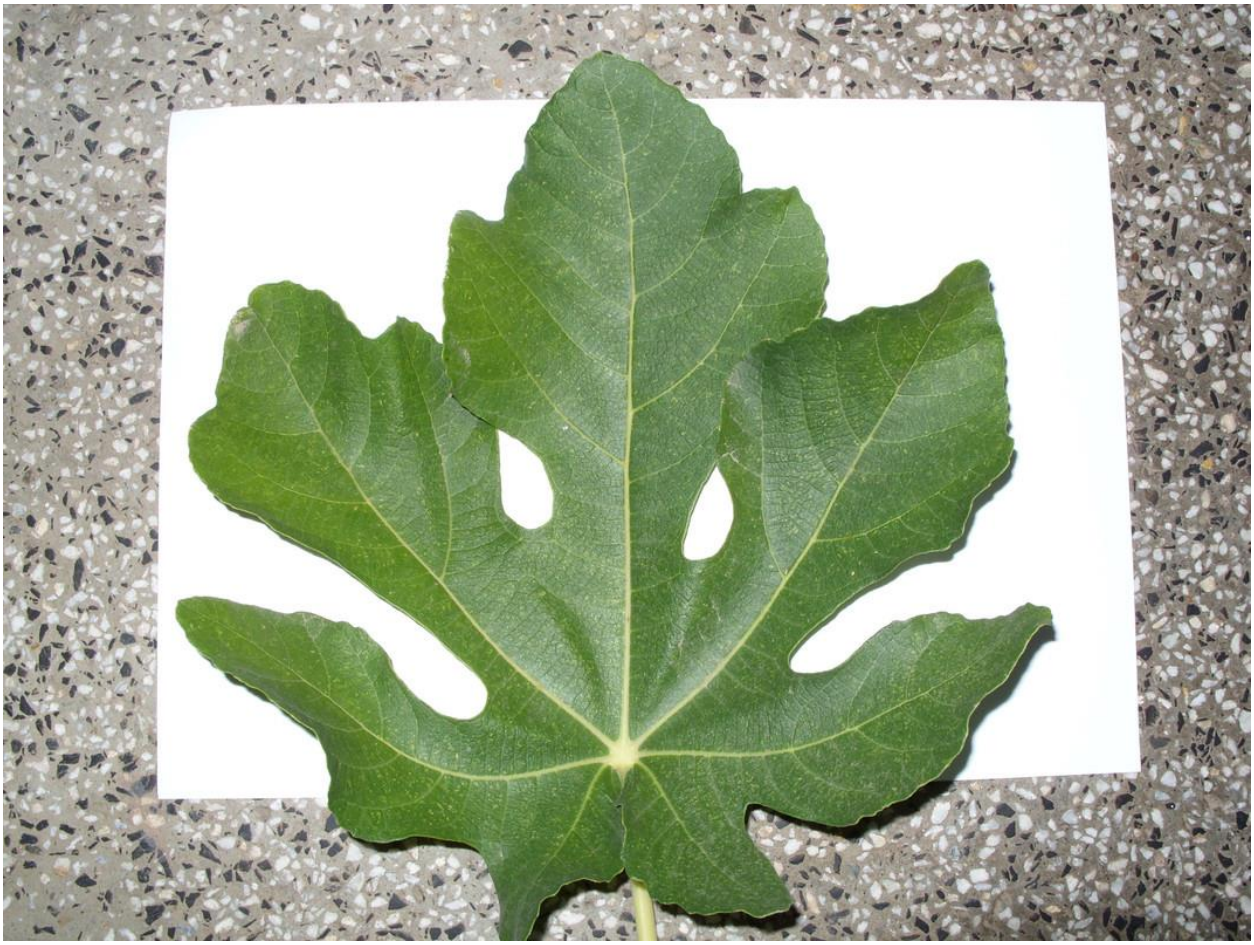
There is a possibility that the famous (especially with its selling price) Black Madeira (The name was coined in the USA. On the island of Madeira itself, this name is used for another variety) is the same or a very close variety to Brogiotto Nero. When selling, a photo of unformed leaves is usually posted to obscure the resemblance, but what I have seen in photos of correct owners is a very large to close resemblance in leaves, fruit and ripening time.

The trees have medium to vigorous growth. The bark of young branches is dark brown, and on the stem and old branches it is gray. The buds are green, but turn red and brown when cold. The limbs branch strongly and form a dense crown. A distinctive feature of

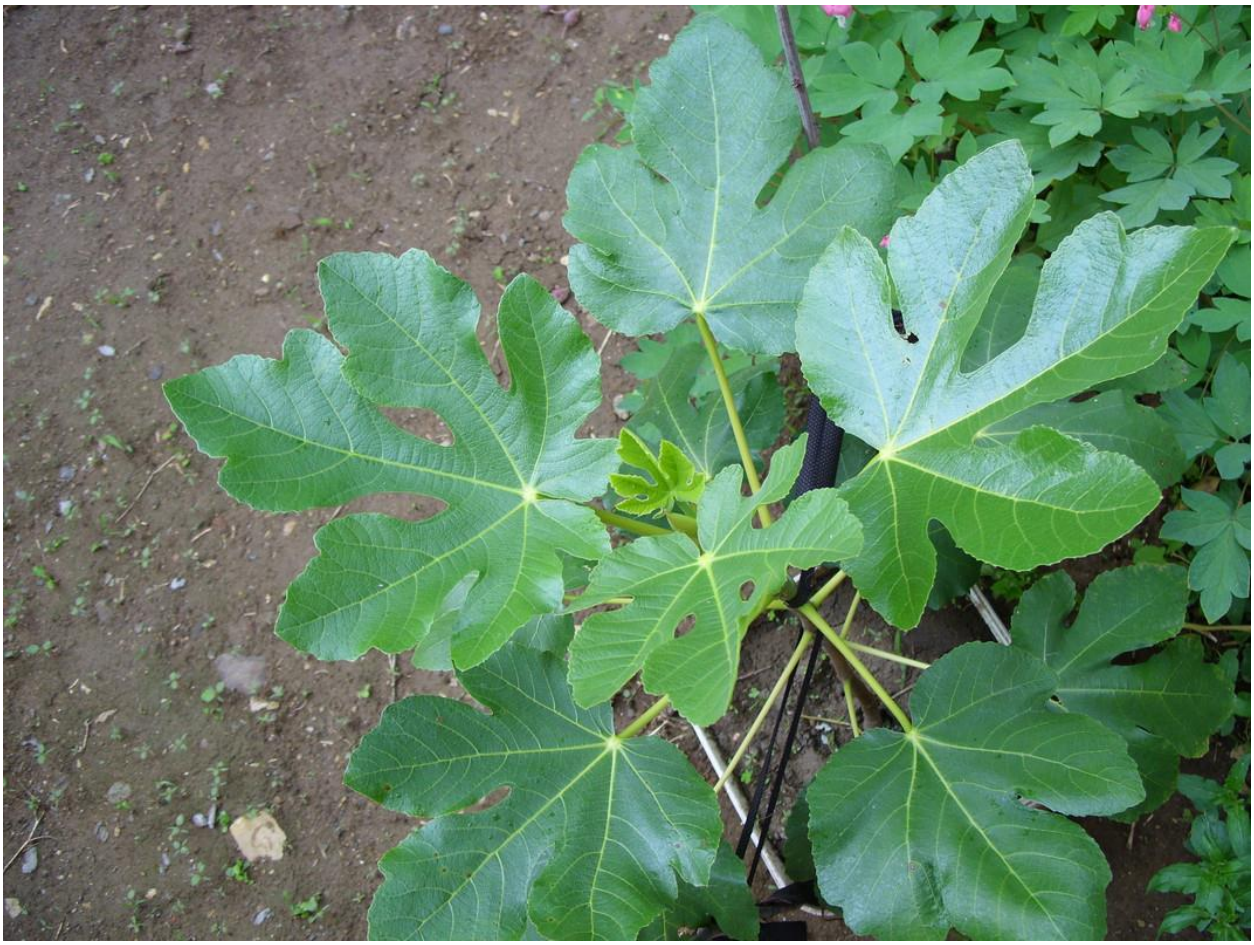
plants of this variety is the very thick tips of the twigs, which are similar to those of a walnut.

The leaves are very large, which is a feature of the variety. Most are five-lobed, less often three-lobed or spade (at high humidity) with a highly-developed central part.

This is a medium-sized leaf from an adult plant, formed in drought, and an A4-format sheet is placed in the background. It has leaves of approximately twice the size, which also gives the trees decorative qualities.



The following image of the leaves is very typical. They look like they are covered with gloss and whoever has seen them will hardly confuse the variety. The leaves are of a young plant. They also show the highly developed central lobe and the shiny surface.



Brogiotto Nero is a Common (self-fertile) type. It does not need pollination by Blastophaga to produce a crop. When pollinated, the fruits are slightly larger and more saturated red inside, but they also split more easily with increased humidity.

According to the number of harvests, it is a Unifere type. Gives only one (main) crop. Very rarely, it produces single Breba fruits that resemble those of the main crop and are of no economic importance.

Fruit ripening is late, at least for Bulgaria. Even with a warm spring and suitable conditions, the fruits begin to ripen from early to mid-September. Harvest is delayed in late spring and drought. The fruiting season is short and usually does not exceed a month, but in a short time, quite a lot of fruit can be gathered, because they ripen in groups and at the beginning of winter there is not a single fruit on the tree.

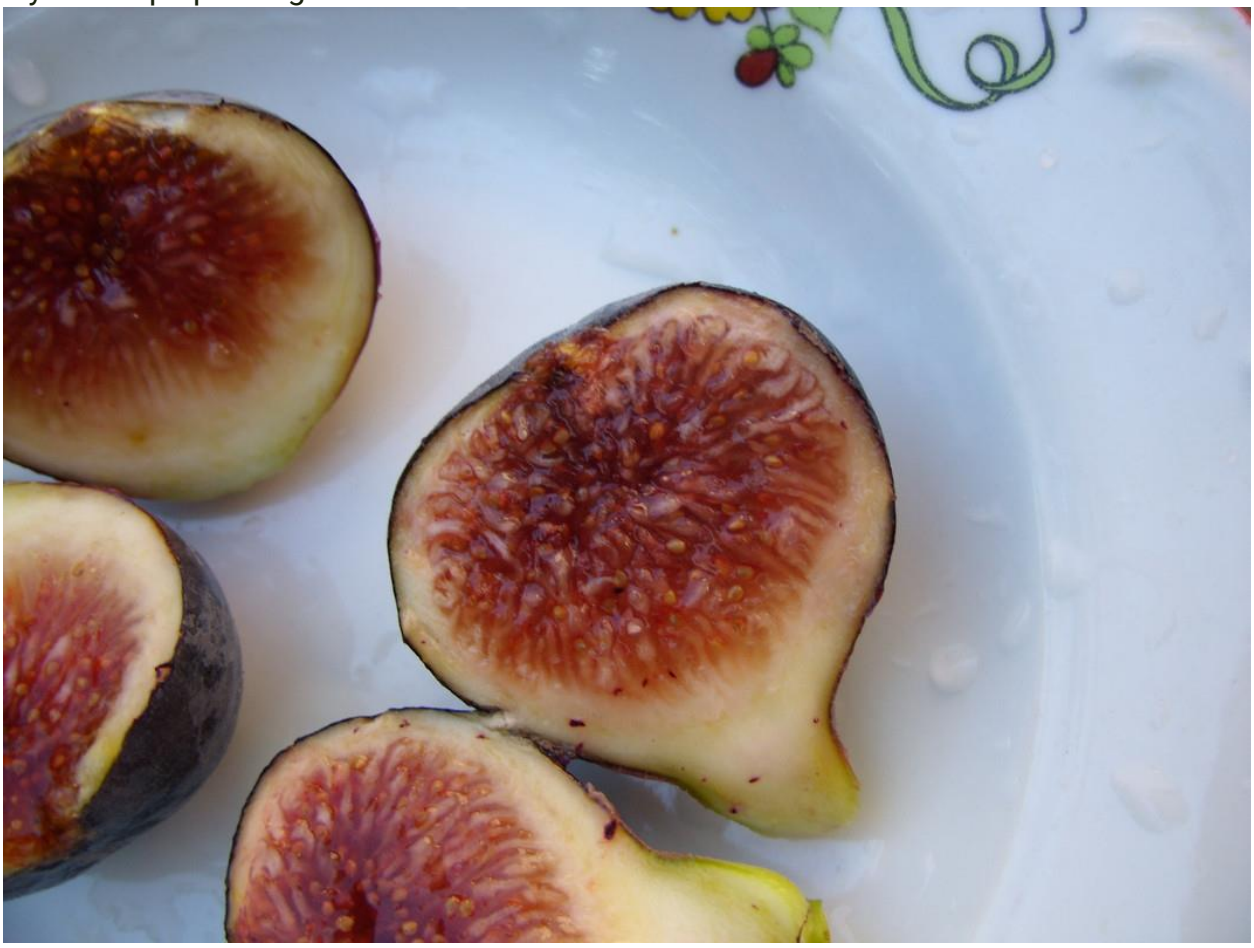
The fruits are large and almost uniform in shape and size. According to Condit, they have an average weight of 50 grams, but, in my opinion, this is more like the

minimum. Usually, they are from 50-70 grams depending on the growing conditions, and often exceed this size. The shape of the fruit is flat with a pronounced neck . This should be noted in order to distinguish it from duplicating varieties with flat fruits. A thin stem and no neck usually means that this fruit is of some other variety. The handle is very short and thick. When the fruit is fully ripe, the stalk is very easily separated from the branches.

Fruit of a potted plant:

The skin of the fruit is dense, dark purple to blue-black in color. I've never seen it turn brown. From green, it changes directly to purple:

And then dark purple to black with a bluish coating. The flesh is white, a clearly visible layer. The pulp is bright red.



The ostiole of the fruit is slightly open or completely closed and looks very small against the background of the relatively large fruit. The scales around the eye are purple even during the formation of the inflorescence. The taste is fruity, very rich, the sugar content is high, but the fruits are too large to be dried. They are sturdy and easy to transport without damage.

The fruits have a relatively weak resistance to moisture and, more precisely, to retaining moisture in the soil for a long time. They tolerate watering well and short periods of rainfall, but not prolonged rainfall. The skin is strong, but not elastic enough. Lasts 3-4 days of moisture with no noticeable change, then the fruit starts to split from the ostiole to the stalk, as if cut.

Trees have poor resistance to drought. In drought, the fruits go into hibernation and stop developing. They can remain unripe until October, when it rains and they become active. Ripe fruits after prolonged drying of the plant are smaller, the skin is harder and inelastic. Such fruits split very easily in high humidity.

Cold resistance is not clear and I will update after a serious cold. I assume it's -18 [C] with no major damage, as it is with most of the other varieties. In 2018, a tree of this variety that I have observed, withstood a temperature of -16 degrees Celsius without any damage even on the top branches.

Logically, there is no way such a late variety will produce a significant crop after heavy pruning, or any crop at all after frost to the ground, so there is no point in even experimenting in this regard.

The variety is preferred for industrial cultivation in warm regions with a long season due to the high quality of the fruit (one of the highest overall among figs), the short ripening interval between individual fruits (cluster ripening), which reduces the harvest period, and durability of the fruits of transport.

Watering during drought is necessary for the fruits to ripen on time and to be of good quality. Regular watering during fruit formation (without large fluctuations in humidity) also increases their resistance to splitting during ripening.

Not suitable for mountainous areas and any other areas with a late season (late arrival of spring and/or early onset of cold weather).

There is no evidence that the cultivar is highly susceptible to FMV (Ficus mosaic virus) and that crop damage caused by the virus has ever been observed.

Link to description on french fig farm's page: https://frenchfigfarm.com/fig-trees/violette-de-sollies

Video with a presentation in Bulgarian of a fruit typical of the variety.

https://m.facebook.com/watch/?v=1414465228588705&_rdr