

How to Grow **GRAPE**S

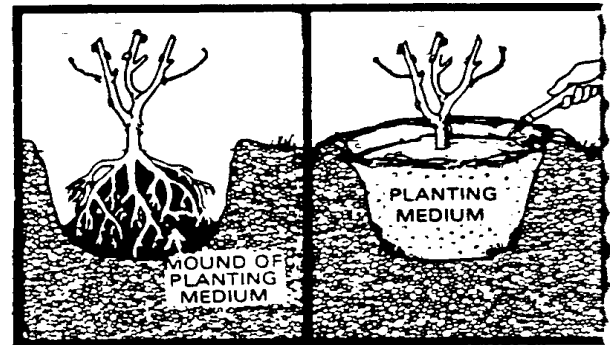
Capital Nursery

LOCATION:

Grape vines must have full sun to produce the sugar necessary for table use or wine making. They also should be planted in an area where the watering can be controlled. Grapes will not tolerate too frequent moisture around the root area. They need deep, infrequent watering. Grapes may be grown on stakes, wires strung between posts, over an arbor or patio, or espaliered on a trellis against a fence or wall. Used against a south or west wall, a grape vine can lower the interior temperature by 20 to 30 degrees while it is providing a delicious crop of fruit. In winter the leaves drop, allowing the sun to warm the walls.

PLANTING:

Dig the holes 2 to 3 feet wide and mix one pound of Master Nursery Formula 49 fertilizer with the soil in the hole. Refill the hole to planting depth with a mixture of 1/3 Goldrush firbark compost with 2/3 of the native soil. Set container grown plants at the same level as they were in the container. Bare-root plants can be set deeper. Use the surplus soil to make a 4 in. high, 3 ft. wide watering basin around the plant for deep watering and feeding. This berm should be knocked down in winter. Immediately saturate the root area with Master Nursery Root Master Transplant solution to prevent transplant shock.



WATERING:

Two words can easily describe proper watering for grape vines; *deep & infrequent*. The type of watering for lawns is not sufficient for the grapes. Newly installed vines will need frequent watering. As the root system develops, reduce the frequency of the watering & increase the length of time and watering depth. After the first 3-4 years the vines will typically need watering only every 2 weeks for a 3 to 5 hour period. Check with a shovel to verify that water has penetrated to a depth of at least 2 feet. The best way to deep water is utilizing watering basins around the base of the trunk and root feeders or root irrigators that attach to the garden hose. Drip irrigation can also provide deep and thorough watering. Mulches can be used on the soil around your grape plants. These substantially reduce the soil temperature and moisture demand on the plant but make sure that the mulch does not come in contact with the base of the plant as wicking can occur and lead to rotting diseases.

FERTILIZING:

Unlike other fruiting plants, grapes need primarily nitrogen for proper growth. A good fertilizer would be Master Nursery Mastergreen for turf, containing "slow release" nitrogen and other nutrients for deep green foliage. Work in the soil around the root area of the plant 1 pound as growth starts in the spring and repeat in 6-8 weeks. A third feeding in July is the last one of the season.

INSECT CONTROL (ALWAYS FOLLOW LABEL INSTRUCTIONS & CAUTIONS ON ALL INSECTICIDES)

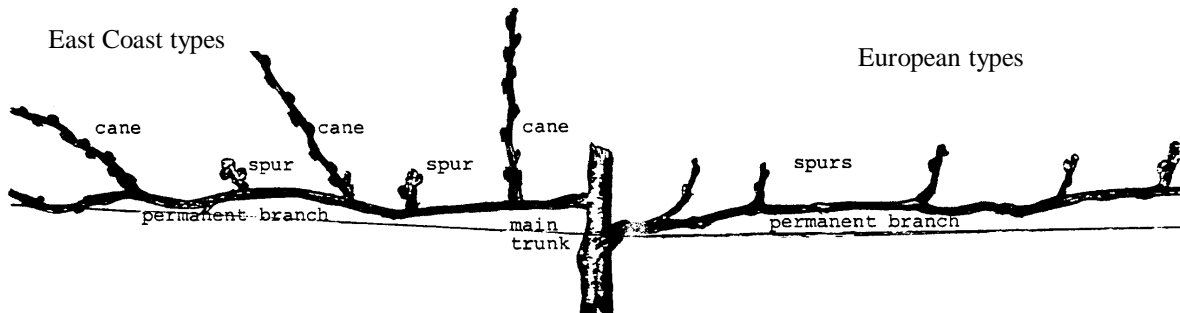
Blister Mites
Grape leaf folder
Grape leaf skeletonizer
Wasps or bees on fruit

Wettable Sulfur
Monterey Worm Ender
“
No Control (They like sweet fruit, too!)

DISEASE CONTROL

Powdery Mildew
Fruit Rot or Bunch Rot

Bayleton or Wettable Sulfur
No chemical control. Remove leaves around developing clusters to improve air circulation.



This is how a grape vine should look after pruning from it's fourth year of age and there-

PRUNING

As with any fruit tree, grapes need good structure branches to support the fruit. Basic training for these branches takes the first two to three years after planting. The first summer allow all stems to grow. This encourages heavy root development. That winter, cut out all but the strings cane and tie it to the support. This cane becomes the main trunk of the vine. The second season, pinch out the tip when it reaches the desired height and select lateral branching stems to fit the arbor, wires or stake. This trunk and lateral branches are the permanent framework and remain each year. The yearly growth from this framework is pruned each January or February according to the type of grape.

SPUR PRUNING (European Varieties) Growth from the past year is thinned so that remaining canes are 12 to 18 inches apart along the branches. These canes are then cut back, leaving only two buds on each.

CANE PRUNING (American Varieties) Previous seasons growth is thinned so remaining canes are 15 inches apart. Every 2nd cane is pruned to 2 buds. Alternate canes are pruned to 8 to 15 buds. The long canes fruit this year, the short ones provide renewal growth for the following season. The order is reversed next year, growth from this years short (2 bud) spurs are left long (8 to 15 buds), the long canes are cut to 2 buds. For additional information on grape care consult the Ortho book "All about Fruits and Berries" or the Agricultural Extension office.

(If in doubt as to what types of grapes you have, apply Cane Pruning techniques)