

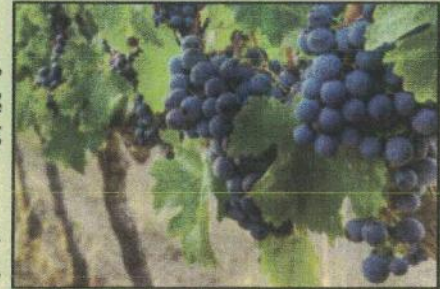


# Grapes

*THE FRUIT OF THE VINE – THE FOOD OF THE “GODS”*

## GROWING GRAPES

It's a wonder more gardeners don't plant grapevines. Just 2 years after planting, you can be sampling your own grapes, and in just 3 years you can be harvesting up to 15 pounds of grapes from each vine — Plenty for eating and making jellies, juice or wine!



Not only do grapes produce an edible crop, the vines are also ornamental. Train your grapevines over an arbor to create an attractive, and productive, garden focal point. Grapes require a long, frost-free growing season. Choose a variety that is recommended for our climate. Grapes start to bear 2 years after 1-year-old vines are planted.

**Plant** grapes in the spring. Select a site with deep, well-drained, loose soil in full sun. Set up a trellis system before planting. Space vines 6-10 feet apart. For each vine, dig a hole 12 inches deep and 12 inches wide. Fill with 4 inches of topsoil. Trim off broken roots and set the vine into hole slightly deeper than it grew in the nursery. Cover the roots with 6 inches of soil and tamp down. Fill with the remaining soil, but don't tamp down.

**Prune** the top back to two or three buds at planting time. Prune annually when the vines are dormant according to the training system you select. Do not fertilize unless the soil is very poor or the plant shows poor foliage color or signs of nutrient deficiencies. Cultivate shallowly around the base of the plants to control weeds. Drape netting over vines to prevent birds from destroying your harvest. Grapes will only ripen on the vine. As they ripen the sugar content rises to about 20 percent.

**Harvest** table grapes when the flavor is right; harvest wine grapes when they reach the appropriate sugar content.

We have chosen the best varieties for our climate:

### *Seedless grapes*

**Concord:** Small, blue-black. Tough skin, highly aromatic. Hardy, heavy producer and very vigorous. Most widely used grape in U.S. Ripens: Aug.-Sept.

**Himrod:** Small, white. Abundant clusters. Firm, crisp, honey-like flavor. Flavorful table wine. Ripens: Early Sept.

**Mars:** Medium, blue. Tough skin, very productive. Well-filled clusters. Concord-like flavor. Ripens: Aug.-Sept.

**Reliance:** Medium, pink to red. Tender skin. Good for jellies and juices. Hardy and vigorous. Ripens: Mid-Aug.

**Vanessa:** Medium, bright deep red. Firm flesh. Attractive, medium-sized clusters. Mildly aromatic. Crisp texture. Ripens: Aug.-Sept.



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