



## GRAPE CARE

Grapes are highly adaptable and easy to grow! Plant in full sun, in the hottest part of your yard. Avoid areas shaded by trees or shrubs. Grape vines are pruned each spring for best results, removing 75-90% of the previous year's growth. You can also prune to control the shape during the growing season. Established grape vines require infrequent watering, but do not allow young vines to dry out. Self-fruitful.

### Planting

Site selection is very important since grapes are a long lived plant requiring up to six years growth from the time of planting to reach maximum harvest potential. Grapes can remain productive for up to 100 years, as long as the site selected meets its needs.

Choose the sunniest planting location possible. A south or southwesterly slope is ideal, as it will be warmer, reducing risk of injury from spring frosts. North-South oriented rows provide better and more even exposure of leaves and fruit to sunlight than East-West aligned rows. While grapes grow well on a variety of soils, they will not tolerate poor drainage.

When selecting a variety to grow, choose from cultivars proven to do well in your growing area.

### Watering

Young plants need sufficient irrigation to maintain growth, without staying overly wet. Once established, mature grapevines are relatively care free. Grapes may need supplemental watering in areas of low annual rainfall.

### Pruning

Pruning is important for grapes. It creates balance between vegetative and fruit producing growth, to enable healthy harvests of quality fruit. Grape vines should be pruned when dormant, between January and March. The two methods generally used are spur pruning and cane pruning. Properly

pruning grapevines involves the removal of 75-95% of the previous season's growth.

### **Fertilizing**

Grapes should be fertilized very lightly, if at all, in spring because too much feeding will compromise fruit production. Amending the soil with manure or compost is fine, but avoid heavy mulching, which can delay maturation of fruit.

## **GRAPE VARIETIES**

### **BLACK MONUKKA SEEDLESS GRAPE**

Large, purplish-black, sweet, crisp. Does not require as much summer heat as Thompson. Fresh or raisins. Early mid-season. 100 hours chilling. Self-fruitful.

### **FLAME SEEDLESS GRAPE**

Medium-sized, light red. Crisp, sweet, excellent flavor. For fresh use or raisins. Needs hot summer. Ripens early, before Thompson. Vigorous. 100 hours chilling. Self-fruitful.

### **RUBY SEEDLESS GRAPE**

Dark red, sweet, crisp, excellent fresh or for raisins. Ripens after Thompson. Seedless. Requires less summer heat than Thompson or Flame. 100 hours chilling. Self-fruitful.

### **THOMPSON SEEDLESS GRAPE**

Most popular grape in Calif. & Ariz. Fresh & raisins. Pale green, very sweet. Thin the clusters for larger berries. Needs plenty of heat. 100 hours chilling. Self-fruitful.

### **CONCORD SEEDLESS GRAPE**

Tasty purple grape for eating fresh or juice. Needs heat. 100 hours chilling.