URBAN FARMER

LOVE THE EARTH

From Seed to Harvest: A beginner's guide to growing Grapes

Gardeners don't have to live in a vineyard to grow grapes, as grapes can grow in nearly any region throughout the United States.

To plant:

Grapes should be planted in the early spring, when they are dormant. Prior to planting, soak the roots in water for two to three hours. Plant the bare-root varieties, and trim the root back to 6 inches. The grape's root system grows deeply, so plant them in well-cultivated soil. Upon planting, you also may need to prune the grapes. Prune the plants of all but one stem and cut the buds down to only two. Space roots 6 to 10 feet apart and plant them 12 inches deep. Cover the roots with 6 inches of soil and firmly tamp it down. Fill the remaining space with 6 inches of soil that is loosely settled and not tamped down.

To grow:

Grapes require full sun and well-drained soil. Some type of support, like a trellis, is needed to grow grapes. By training the grape vines, you can direct them to grow in whichever way you want. Pruning also lends a hand in this. You should prune grapes, keep a few stems from last year's growth and train them along a trellis, but prune off all the remaining stems. Thin any flower clusters that look weak or misshapen so they don't overproduce fruit, which will cause the fruit to be poor quality. Apply mulch around the vines to retain moisture and deter weeds. To keep birds and other animals away, arrange mesh netting over the vines.



Concord Grape plants available at ufseeds.com

To harvest:

Once grapes are picked from the vine, they will not continue to ripen. They are ripe in the late summer or early fall when they are rich in color, easily crushed but not shriveled, plump and juicy. To harvest, snip clusters of ripe grapes from the vine. Grapes should be tightly attached to their stem. Pick the grapes on a sunny day, which is when they will have the highest sugar content.

What grapes crave:

Grapes don't require fertilizer in their first year, but in the second year, feed grapes lightly with a nitrogen fertilizer.

Where to buy grape plants:

Urban Farmer carries a wide variety of grape plants the produce large purple, white and red juicy grapes.

Check out our grape plant selection on our website at ufseeds.com!







