

Grapevine

DID YOU KNOW
THERE ARE ABOUT
16,000 VARIETIES
OF GRAPES
WORLDWIDE?

CAN I GROW GRAPES?

Grapevines can be grown in USDA zones 4-10. They will thrive in sandy soil with a pH ranging from 5.0-6.5. Grapevines prefer well-draining soil, and clay-like soil should be amended with organic matter. Do not over-fertilize, as soil with too many nutrients can cause the plant to grow too quickly and bear poorly tasting fruit. Plant your grapevines in an area with full sun. It will need full sun exposure for at least 7-8 hours a day to produce plenty of great-tasting fruit.

HOW TO PLANT GRAPES

Grapevines should be planted 6 to 8 feet apart. The best time to plant grapes is after the last frost of the season. They should be planted near a sturdy trellis or fence line to give them something to grow along and grab onto. To plant, dig a hole twice as wide and deep as needed. Mix a combination of 25% compost with 75% of your soil. Fill the bottom half of the hole around your plant with enough of your soil mix so that the surface of the root ball is flush with the ground. After planting, backfill the hole with the rest of your soil mixture and add more water to prevent air pockets.

MAINTENANCE

After planting, be sure to water your grapevines every few days for the first two weeks. Once your plant has been established, it will only need to be watered when the soil has dried out. Be sure not to overwater your tree as that can result in the roots becoming waterlogged. Grapevines can produce fruit 2-3 years after planting under proper growing conditions. Prune annually while dormant. Early spring, after the last frost, is a good time. Choose the best shoot and cut all others to the base. Prune remaining shoot to three or four strong buds.



COMMON PESTS AND DISEASES

Pests

Aphids and Japanese beetles both pose threats to grapevines. Japanese beetles are medium-sized, iridescent green/copper-colored, beetles that skeletonize leaves. This leaves plants bare and stripped of leaves. Aphids suck the nutrients from plants, leaving them weak and deprived of strength. Both pests can prove to be very difficult on grapevines and should be removed as soon as you start to see signs in your plants. Both pests can be treated with either Neem oil or Sinosad soap.

Diseases

Xylella fastidiosa is the bacterium responsible for spreading the deadly disease in grapevines commonly known as Pierce's Disease. This disease is prevalent in the south. Symptoms include brown/withering leaves and decaying fruit. If unchecked, Pierce's Disease will prove to be fatal to your plant. While you can try to rescue your plants with an insecticide, it can only delay, but not halt the death of your vine. We suggest you plant varieties resistant to Pierce's Disease for the best chance of survival.

PIERCE'S DISEASE-TOLERANT VARIETIES

Victoria Red - Great-tasting red table grape. Texas Superstar in zone 7b or warmer.

Blanc Du Bois - Floral-fruity-flavored white wine grape. Grows great in the south.

Black Spanish - Heavy-producing black wine grape. Resistant to mildew.

Champanel - Heavy-producing black grape. Best when made into jams/jellies.

Norton - Excellent black wine grape. Grows in USDA hardiness zones 6-10.

UC Davis Varieties: **Camminare Noir, Paseante Noir, Errante Noir, Caminante Blanc**

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