



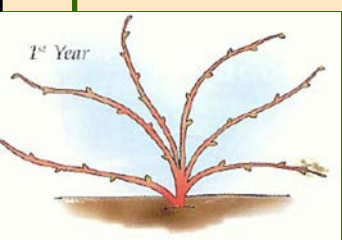
Growing Grapes

Grapevines not only provide fresh fruit for eating, juice or winemaking, but can also create thick privacy screens and add interest to garden walls.

Grapes require well-drained soil and a warm, sunny spot. Provide a strong arbour or trellis for vines to adhere to; simple cedar trellising will not suffice.

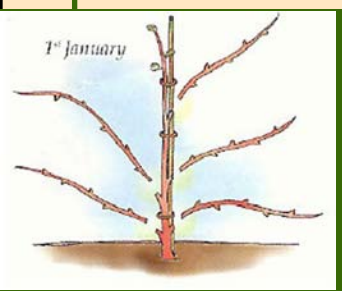
Pruning

Grapes will require pruning to promote fruit growth or to control size. Note pruning tips below for fruiting - IF pruning merely for size and shape, grapes can be pruned **once they have leafed out** in spring. Pruning prior to this will cause excessive sap loss.



Year 1

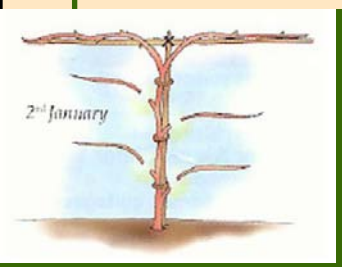
Do not prune new grapevines at all for the first year. As with all vines, the plant needs all the strength it can get from its food manufacturing leaves to start developing its root system.



Year 2

During the first January after a full year's growth, prune out all stems except the sturdiest one, which you shorten to just three buds. One of these buds will continue the stem's growth the following summer.

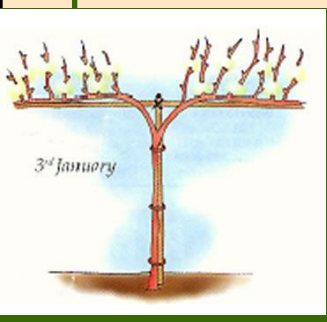
In summer, when the now-single main stem or trunk reaches the top of your support, pinch out the growing tip. This forces side stems to develop.



Keep only the two strongest side stems, pinching out the others, and train them across your arbour. Pinch back the shoots that arise from these when these shoots reach about 12" (30 cm).



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Year 3

The following January, prune all these short shoots right back to the two side stems. (Because they grew late in the season, they're too weak to support fruiting canes, but their leaves were necessary at the time to help feed the vine.) This pruning forces new, more vigorous shoots, called spur canes, to sprout from the side stems.

Year 4

The next January (two years after the initial pruning), remove any spur canes that look spindly or weak, and thin the rest to one every 6-10" (15-25cm). Prune back each of the remaining spur canes (which will now become part of the vine's permanent framework) back to two buds.

Each bud will grow into a fruiting (grape-producing) cane the following summer. Now that the vine is trained, yearly pruning of fruiting spurs in the dormant season is all that is required.

Fertilizing

Your grapes will benefit from a starter or transplant fertilizer such as **Root Booster** or 10-52-10 when planted. A yearly application of bone meal is also recommended to ensure consistent nutrition.

Pest Control

As with any lush foliage, your grapes can be susceptible to aphids, leafhoppers and other insects. A fall and/or spring application of horticultural oil will smother any overwintering insects and their eggs. During the growing season, Dr. Doom Botanicals spray is very effective in controlling any insect infestations. Follow product info on labels.

Grape Varieties:

Beta: hardy and vigorous; high producer. Produces a blue/black grape that is perfect for jams, jellies & juices. Tart fruit.

Bluebell: deep blue. Good for eating, jelly & juice. Self-pollinating.

Frontenac: A hardy grape suitable for red wine. Self-pollinating.



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Frontenac Gris: Similar to Frontenac but with light coloured skins. Suitable for making white wine.

Germanica: Very similar to Beta, perhaps slightly earlier. Good for jams, jelly & juice. Self-pollinating.

Key Gray: Originated in Minnesota. Small clusters of green grapes. Excellent for wine, jam and fresh eating.. Hardy to -40°C . Ripens in late September. Zone 3

Minnesota: Redish-purple grape. By far the sweetest flavor. Good for eating & wine. Needs a pollinator.

Prairie Star: A sweet white grape with long clusters. It makes a wine with excellent body and good sugar/acid balance. Self-pollinating, Zone 3.

St. Pepin: Very sweet white. Good for eating and wine. Needs a pollinator.

Valiant: Originated in South Dakota; hardy to -40°C . Medium clusters with small blue berries. Excellent for jams, juices, eating and wine. Ripens in mid September. Zone 3



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