

GRAPES

SITE SELECTION:

Plant in full sun and preferably on a trellis system that runs north to south on a slope. Grapes prefer well drained soil. Building up raised beds may help with drainage in poor sites.

TRELLIS:

Grapes can be trained to many styles of arbors and trellises, but if the goal is for fruit production, the single downward hanging canopy system is an efficient system for this region.

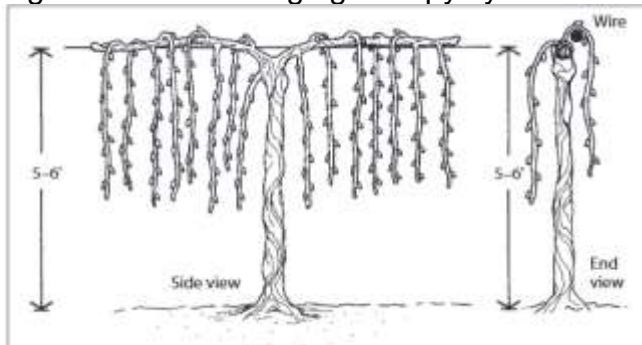


Fig. 1 Single Downward Hanging Canopy System ('Growing Table Grapes', Oregon State University Extension May 2011)

PLANTING:

Plant vines 6-8' apart in a row, and space rows 9-10' apart, in early spring.

TRAINING AND PRUNING:

Grapes respond best to yearly pruning. To establish a new vine, the following Winter after planting, select the most vigorous shoot from first year growth and prune back to three buds, prune off any remaining shoots (Fig.1). Allow the main shoot to grow and prune off competing shoots throughout the year.

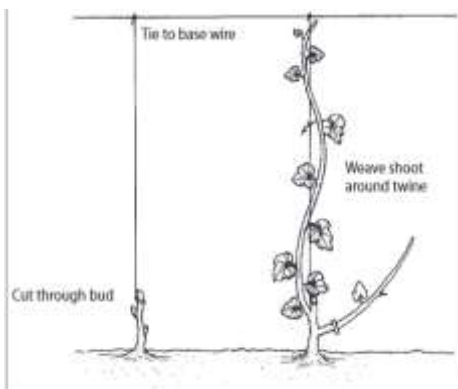


Fig. 2 Year one grape training ('Growing Table Grapes', Oregon State University Extension May 2011)

The second winter the main shoot should be headed back to top wire (Fig.3).

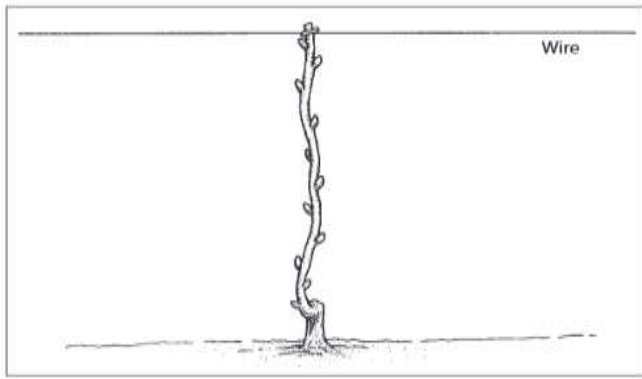


Fig. 3 Year two Winter pruning ('Growing Table Grapes', Oregon State University Extension May 2011)

During the third growing season, select two vigorous growing lateral shoots that are 2-6" below training wire, these will be your fruiting canes next year. Remove remaining shoots (Fig. 4). On the third Winter, prune back the two lateral canes to 7-10 buds (Fig. 4).



Fig.4 Third growing season training ('Growing Table Grapes', Oregon State University Extension May 2011)

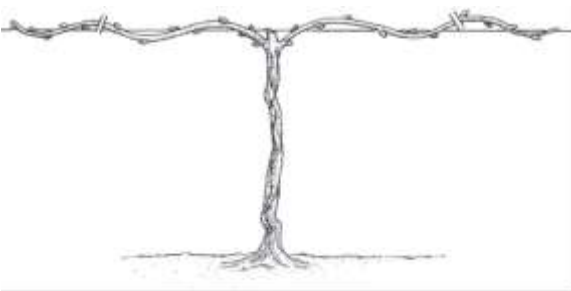


Fig.4 Third Winter pruning ('Growing Table Grapes', Oregon State University Extension May 2011)

By the fourth year, the vines should be well established and, on that Winter, and the consecutive Winters following, select two vigorous shoots close to the trunk, these will be your new fruiting canes, and cut back to ~15 buds. Then select two other canes to be your renewal spurs (just in case the fruiting canes get damaged) and prune them back to one or two buds (Fig.5 and 6).

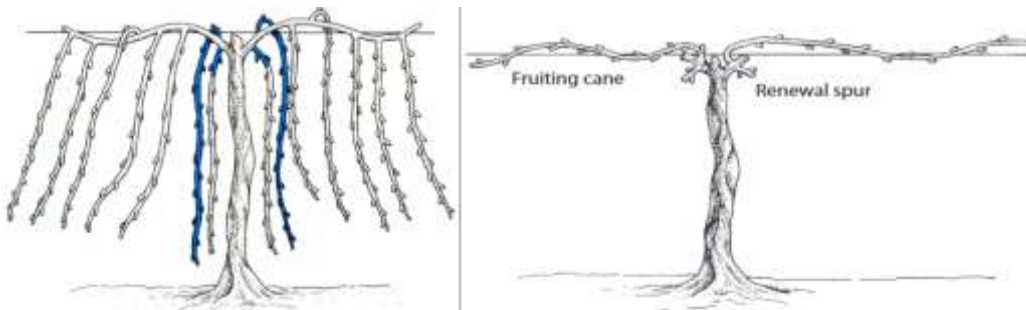


Fig.5 Pruning established grape vines ('Growing Table Grapes', Oregon State University Extension May 2011)

VARIETIES:

SEEDED GRAPES

Concord: Well-known, high quality grape good for juices, jams and wine. Blue-black, seeded grapes ripen in late mid-season. Clusters are medium to large.

Golden Muscat: From the lineage of the famous European Muscat grapes comes the Golden Muscat, which gets its name from its pale golden-yellow fruit. The fruit clusters are large and dense, sometimes weighing up to 7 pounds! Very aromatic and flavorful, Golden Muscat is outstanding as a table grape or raisin.

Niagara: Large, tight, amber, slipskin grape. Sweet and juicy with a strong foxy flavor. Also known as a "White Concord". Almost identical to Concord, but with a greenish skin. Makes a great arbor vine. Ripens in late September.

SEEDLESS GRAPES

Concord Seedless: Large clusters of bluish-black grapes in mid-September. A seedless form of the grape that literally defines the taste of U.S. grape juice. Strong grower.

Flame Seedless: Light red, crisp, sweet fruit. Good for fresh use, or it also a good raisin. Good vigor and productivity. Ripens late July to early August. This is the standard red grape found in supermarkets.

Glenora: Medium to large clusters of small to medium, seedless, bluish black grapes. Sweet, spicy, fine textured, highly flavored flesh. Ripens late August to early September. Keeps well on the vine.

Himrod: Produces large, loose bunches of medium white seedless grapes. An excellent, honey-like flavor and melting, juicy texture. Grown for shade on an arbor.

Lakemont Seedless: Somewhere between Himrod and Interlaken, Lakemont has the largest, tightest clusters of any seedless grape. Yellowish-green fruit has excellent flavor, great for fresh eating or raisins.

Marquis: Large, round berries in large clusters. Has excellent flavor and is a great choice for home gardens. Skin is thick, flesh is very juicy and the seeds are medium in size and soft. Ripens early to mid-September.

Muscat Blue Seedless: This is a very vigorous and reliable grape that is great eaten fresh or as wine. Large grapes with a rich, sweet, muscat flavor.

Ruby Seedless: A multiple-use plant, this vine produces sweet, seedless red grapes in very large clusters for wine, fresh eating, or raisins. Quick shade for arbors or walkways.

Suffolk Red: Crisp with a spicy, sweet flavor and large, loose bunches of red grapes. Pure flavor with very tender skin. Some susceptibility to mildews but almost disease free.

Thompson Seedless: The one you see in the grocery store—a snack time favorite. Unbeatable for fresh use! Pale green fruit is sweet and delicious, with no bitter aftertaste. Dependably productive vines.

Vanessa: An early ripening red dessert grape of excellent quality. This vine is moderately vigorous. Grows best with ample air circulation and well-drained soil.

WINE GRAPES

Chardonnay: The French grape used in many superior white wines. Very hardy and productive.

Merlot: Abundant clusters of large, bright burgundy-purple fruit. Produces distinctive red wine. Self-pollinating. A vigorous and productive vine that does well with cooler summers.

Pinot Gris: The skin may appear anywhere from a dappled blue gray to a pinkish brown, depending on where it is grown and on climatic conditions. Pinot Gris is fond of long, temperate summer days and the gently cooling autumn, so performs excellently in Oregon. Mostly used to make wine.

Pinot Noir: Another French Grape, this time used to make excellent red wines. A little bit more care is required (can be a little tricky), but it is well worth it for these small, dark blue grapes!