Grapes are deciduous vines that can put out enough growth in a year to arch over a walkway, roof an arbor, form a leafy wall, or put an umbrella of shade over a deck or terrace. For quality fruit you must choose a variety that will ripen in our cool Northwest summers. All of the edible varieties carried by Sky are proven Northwest performers under favorable conditions. Earlier-ripening varieties will perform better in cool summers or cooler microclimates. However, all grapes require some heat and sun to set and ripen fruit. If you plant a grape in partial shade, you should consider it primarily as an ornamental foliage plant providing summer shade or screening with an occasional cluster of fruit as a bonus. (Sky also carries the purple-leaf grape, bred primarily for its interesting foliage though in hot summers its purple berries will ripen.)

Grapes prefer a deep, loose-textured soil. They are naturally deep-rooted plants, although you can grow them in shallower or heavy soils. They need good drainage to prevent root damage. Amend heavy soils with plenty of organic matter. Grapes do well on a southern or western slope with good air circulation and drainage. Protect from wind. Planting them against a south or west wall will give them extra heat and light.

Plant canes 1” deeper than they grew in the pot. Space 8 feet apart. Water weekly the first season. Thereafter, give them a deep watering once every two weeks during the hot, dry part of the summer. The vines can withstand minor drought once established, but for good fruit production they need to have moisture available at all times. Adding mulch will help to keep the soil moist. Withhold water from mid-September on to encourage the fruit to ripen.

A spring application of a balanced fertilizer blend is recommended. In our cool maritime climate, grapes have a tendency to put on vegetative (leaf and vine) growth at the expense of fruit production and maturing. Plus, our native soils tend to be infertile. Although some books may recommend applying nitrogen fertilizers only, in our region a balanced fertilizer is best. DO NOT FEED LATE IN THE SEASON—it can force excessive growth and spoil the fruit.

Your grapevine will not need any pruning until the first winter. Pruning requirements differ depending on grape type. Generally canes are stretched along wires and small branches along the canes are pruned back to two buds each.

Grape Expectations! You may get an occasional fruit bunch the first year and a good crop the second year if you plant in an excellent location. Vines are considered mature at about four years, and a well-cared-for vine may last over 30 years. Expected yield at maturity will be 6-10 pounds per vine.

Harvest your grapes by taste and appearance. When you think a bunch looks ripe, taste one of the grapes near the tip of the cluster. If your grapes do not taste sweet no matter how long you wait, that is a good indication that you've selected a variety that needs more heat than you’re giving it. Move it to a sunnier location or replace it with an earlier-ripening variety.
2021 TABLE GRAPE VARIETIES: SEEDLESS (EXCEPT AS NOTED)

**Canadice** Red. Early season. Long, large clusters of medium-sized berries. Sweet and juicy with a spicy vinous flavor. Very productive; sometimes needs to be thinned. Hardy to -15° F.

**Concord Seedless** Blue. Late season. Needs long growing season and hot weather to ripen. Seedless version of Concord blue grape. Highly aromatic, sweet, flavorful, medium-size blue/black fruit. Slipskin. Good for table, jelly, juice, and wine. Hardy to -15° F.

**Glenora** Black. Midseason. Medium size, long loose clusters. Smooth thin skin, sweet, spicy, flavorful flesh. Some years it tastes foxy like Concord, some years milder. Excellent table grape. Hardy to -10° F.

**Himrod** Green to golden. Early season. Long, loose clusters of medium sized gold fruit. Crisp skin, sweet, juicy flesh with delicate flavor. Good for table, juice, and raisins. Hardy to 0° F.

**Interlaken** Green to golden. Early. Small berries in medium size tapering clusters. Crisp and tangy. Moderately vigorous vines; very reliable variety for Puget Sound area. Hardy to 5° F.

**Lynden Blue** Dark blue. Early season. Large clusters of sweet, flavorful, seeded berries. Compact plant; good for growers with smaller spaces.


**Suffolk Red** Bright red to grayish pink. Midseason. Medium size, long loose clusters. Firm berries with pure, delicious, non-foxy flavor. Requires full sun, fertilizer, and irrigation for best performance. Hardy to 10° F.

2021 WINE GRAPE VARIETIES

Wine grapes are all late-season, seeded varieties. Compared to table grapes, they produce much smaller berries in each cluster. This ensures that the pulp has a high ratio of skin to flesh; the skin carries the color, aroma, and flavor needed to make good wine. All the wine grape varieties we carry are suitable for growing here in the Northwest. However, our summers are not always warm enough to ripen wine grapes fully. Be certain to give your wine grapes the best possible exposure to help ripening.

**Boskoop Glory** Black. Award-winning grape from the Netherlands: cold-hardy, disease resistant, and ornamental. Nearly seedless; aromatic and flavorful. Grapes can be eaten fresh or make an excellent dessert wine.

**Chardonnay – Dijon 76** Produces a distinctive, rich white wine. Originally from the Burgundy region of France. A dependable producer bred for intensified berry aroma.

**Siegerrebe** Plum-purple. Small berried; intensely aromatic, sweet, and flavorful, with spice and grapefruit overtones. Grapes can be eaten, juiced or made into a great white wine.