



- Place small stones around the base of the vine to suppress weeds and help maintain moisture, Apply a mulch around the base in late winter. (Not manure)
- Grape vines will need to be trained to some sort of support to grow upward. This will also cut the risk of disease.
- Select a site with full sun. If you don't have a spot with full sun, make sure it at least gets morning sun. A small amount of afternoon shade won't hurt. Your soil needs to be deep, well-drained, and loose. You also need good air circulation.
- In the first couple of years, the vine should not be allowed to produce fruit. It needs to strengthen its root system before it can support the extra weight of fruit.
- In the first year, cut back all buds except for 2 or 3. Then, select a couple of strong canes and cut back the rest. Make sure the remaining canes are fastened to the support.
- In the second year, prune back all canes. Leave a couple of buds on each of the arms. Remove flower clusters as they form.
- Major pruning should take place in winter when the vine is dormant.
- Don't be afraid to remove at least 90 percent of the previous season's growth. This will ensure a higher quality product. Remember, the more you prune, the more grapes you will have.
- When the grapes start to ripen, remove any leaves that are shading the fruit so that the sun can reach them
- Ventilate your greenhouse or conservatory on warm sunny days if your grapes are grown inside.
- Grapes need a cold spell in order to flower. If grown inside, turn off any heating, and open the vents in your greenhouse during December