

WINE GRAPES



Planting: Plant grapes at least 8 feet apart in well-drained soil amended with compost. Choose a site that can provide a long growing season so the fruit can fully ripen. Most varieties are hardy to 0 to -5° F.

Culture: Grapes are adapted to a wide range of soil types. Water newly planted vines regularly; mature vines are deeply rooted and require only occasional water. Watering prior to harvest will increase fruit size. Fertilize in spring if previous season's growth was weak. In general, wine grapes are not resistant to pests and diseases in our area.

Staking and Pruning: Let the vines ramble on the ground for the first year to develop a strong root system. In following years they need sturdy staking or an arbor to grow on. Pruning will depend on the individual needs of the plant and its location. Please see the information desk for more specific pruning information.

CABERNET SAUVIGNON	Small to medium, purplish black fruit with strong distinctive flavor. Produces a unique Bordeaux type wine. Requires a long growing season to ripen entire crop.
CHARDONNAY	Small, outstanding white grape from France. Contain an ideal balance of sugar and acid to produce excellent Chablis to Burgundy type dry wines. Excellent in cooler areas. Ripens mid-season.
CHENIN BLANC	Medium size compact clusters of medium size, oval, juicy, whitish green grapes. Consistently productive and vigorous. Ripens from late Sept to early Oct.
GEWURZ-TRAMINER	Small pink to red grapes in small clusters, originating in Germany. Distinct spicy, aromatic flavor produces sweet wines which can also be blended with Riesling type, or used for juice. Not as cold hardy as Chardonnay. Ripens late.
MULLER THURGAU	Distinctly spicy grapes in medium compact clusters. Good white wine grape. Heavy producer. Ripens in early October.
MUSCAT OTTONEL	Medium size clusters of firm, yellow grapes. Muscat flavor is so rich that it makes a good eating grape, though it is intended for wine.
PINOT GRIS	Medium, honey colored grapes. Produces a richly flavored wine known that pairs superbly with salmon. Requires a long cool growing season. Ripens midseason.
PINOT NOIR*	Small to medium, dark blue grapes in small clusters. Produces outstanding, dry and delicate Burgundy wine. Susceptible to bunch rot. Ripens midseason. *We offer as many strains as are available to us.
SHIRAZ	Dark almost black fruit. Buds late and ripens mid season.
WHITE REISLING	Small to medium, greenish yellow, speckled fruit in small clusters. Sprightly, aromatic flavor produces a very dry, semisweet, flowery wine. Ripens late.
ZINFANDEL	Medium dark red to black fruits in medium to large clusters. Produces a full bodied, fruity table wine. Very productive, self-fertile vine. Prefers mild winters and cool summers. Ripens in August.