

Grape

Vitis vinifera · Grape family

DIFFICULTY Moderate
TYPE Deciduous perennial vine
MATURITY 2–3 years to first useful crop



SUN
Full sun



WATER
Moderate, deep,
less as fruit
ripens



SOIL PH
6.0–6.5



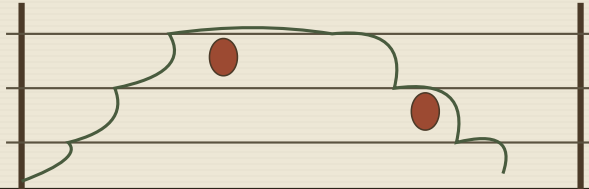
SPACING
1.5–2.5m on a
trellis or arbour



DEPTH
as per pot

01 Trained on wires

Grapes are trained onto a wire trellis or arbour from year one, with structural pruning each winter to build a permanent framework that fruits reliably for decades.



trained along wires, fruit hanging

02 Planting

METHOD	Plant against a sturdy trellis or arbour; train the leading shoot up a stake to the wires.
SOIL	Well-drained, even moderately poor soil is fine.
TIMING	Plant bare-rooted vines in winter while dormant.

03 Growing care

- Prune hard each winter — grapes fruit on new wood from the previous year's growth.
- Reduce watering as fruit ripens to concentrate sugars.
- Thin bunches if very heavily set.
- Net against birds as fruit colours up.

04 Problems

- **Powdery mildew** — very common; improve airflow, prune for an open canopy.
- **Birds** — netting is close to essential at ripening.
- **Fruit fly** — net or bag bunches.
- **Poor fruit set** — cold snap during flowering; not much to be done beyond site selection.

05 Harvest & storage

SIGNS	Full colour and sweetness — taste-test, as colour alone isn't reliable.
METHOD	Cut whole bunches with secateurs.
CURING	None needed.
STORAGE	Fridge, up to 1–2 weeks.

06 Companions & rotation

PLANT NEARBY	AVOID NEARBY	ROTATION NOTE
Roses (early disease indicator)	Cabbage family	Not applicable — long-lived perennial vine.
Hyssop		