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Moist packing material around the roots during shipping helps ensure your grape vines arrive in good condition. It is important to keep the plants cool and the roots moist prior to planting. If you are unable to plant your vines immediately upon arrival, a garage or cool basement room are typically good storage locations. Make sure the storage area temperature does not drop below freezing as this will dry out the roots. If you are already storing apples or other fruits in this location, please choose another. The ethylene gas produced by the fruit can be toxic to the grape vine buds.

Typically the vines are in a dormant state when shipped. If some tender shoots have started to grow, it is an indication that the plants have broken dormancy while in transit or in storage. These are the primary buds, also referred to as "etiolated" shoots, and they may turn brown when exposed to sunlight or break off during planting. Do not be concerned if this happens. Grapes are unique in that they have not only primary, but secondary and tertiary buds, as well the possibility of latent buds developing. The plants will not suffer from the loss.

Planting Information: Generally there is no need to amend the soil prior to planting grape vines. If, however, your soil has a high clay content, peat moss can be added up to a 50% rate to loosen the soil. If you have concerns about your soil prior to planting, see our catalog or website for our soil testing equipment. Your local cooperative extension agency can also provide soil testing services as well as additional planting recommendations.

We recommend soaking the roots in water for several hours (no more than 24) prior to planting. Plant your grape vines as soon as the ground can be worked. While it is best to wait until all danger of frost has passed, if you do experience a frost after your grapes are planted, do not despair. There may be some primary bud damage, but the secondary and tertiary buds will continue to develop, and the plant will still grow.

Space plants 6' apart with 8-9' between rows. Some flexibility with spacing is allowed due to site constraints or aesthetics.

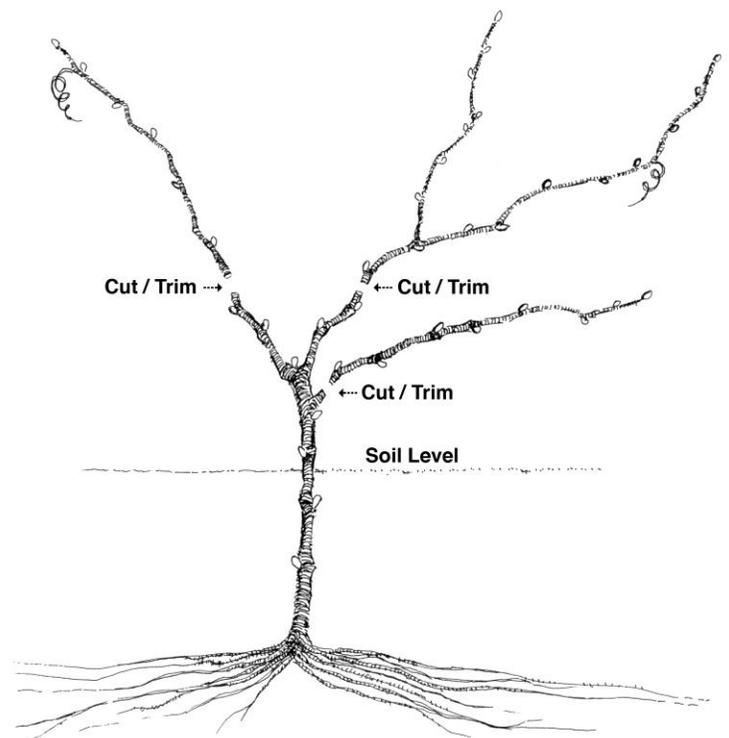
Make sure to dig a hole big enough to spread out the roots. If you ball up the roots inside a hole that is too small, the plant may die. There should also be no need to trim the roots prior to planting.

When planting large quantities, the recommended method is to dig a trench, spread out the roots horizontally, and backfill with soil.

Position plants at the same depth as is evident on the plant. There should be an indication of the previous soil level. Fill the hole with loose soil to within 2" of the top. Fill the hole with water and let the soil settle, then finish filling the hole with soil.

If there are more than two shoots coming out of the top of the plant, it can be trimmed to the two strongest shoots. Each shoot can be pruned to 2-3 buds, leaving a total of 4-6 buds on the plant.

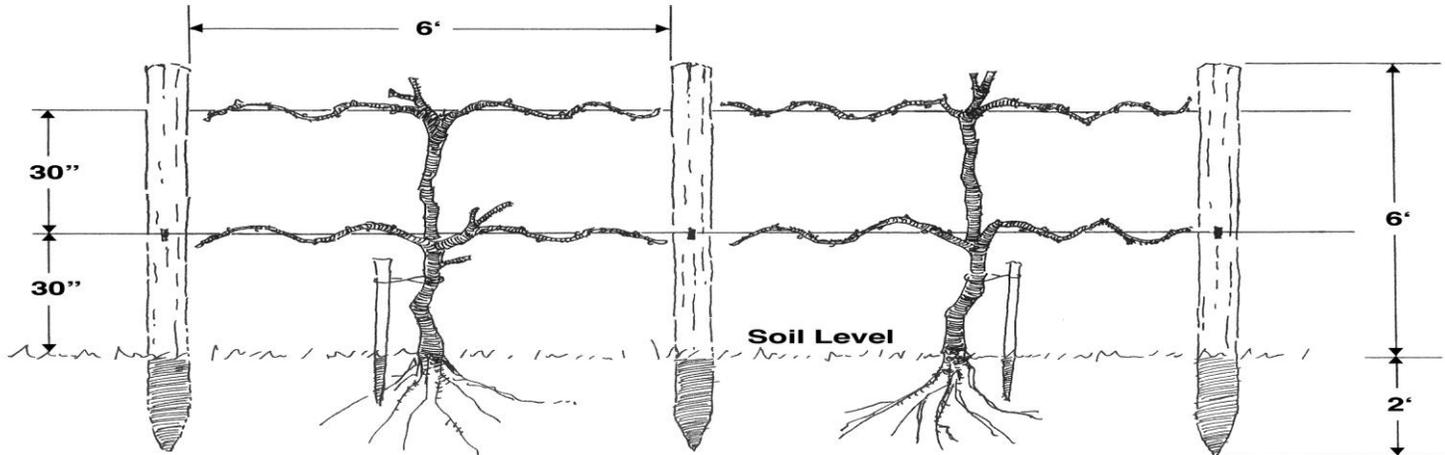
Water well! Grapes require an inch of rain per week, or the equivalent, during that first growing season. During a dry season, watering every 7-10 days becomes necessary.



Fertilization: Fertilizing the first year is not recommended as it tends to promote too much vegetative growth. In the second year, a complete, 15-15-15, fertilizer can be sprinkled in a 6-8" diameter around the plant.

Trellising: This is the best way to manage your grape vines. Trellising is good for fruit production because it allows the sun to reach the flower clusters and promotes good air circulation which helps to reduce disease problems. Erect the trellis before planting or as soon as possible after planting. Insert a stake next to the base of the plant. As the shoots grow, tie them up the stake until they reach the bottom wire. This will be your permanent trunk, so keep it as straight and upright as possible. Once the shoots reach the bottom wire start training them across the wire.

To make a simple trellis, set 8' posts 6' apart. Once the posts are secured in the ground, stretch two strands of heavy-gauge wire – one 30" above ground level and one 60" above ground level – between the posts.



Harvesting: Harvest grapes when they are fully matured. This is important because grapes will not ripen once picked. Although color change is important in determining when to harvest grapes, it should not be the only consideration. Most grape cultivars color up long before they flavor up. When fully ripe, the natural bloom or whitish coating on the berries should become more noticeable, and the color of the seeds changes from green to brown. The best way, however, to tell if the grapes are ready to harvest is to taste them. The more mature the grape, the sweeter the taste.

Once harvested, grapes can be stored up to eight weeks, depending on storage conditions and variety. Storage temperature should be right at freezing (32°F/0°C) with 85% relative humidity. Grapes are excellent for eating fresh, making jellies, jams, or juice, and, of course, wine.