

Planting Grape Vines

[Grapes](#) can be grown in practically any soil, with the exception of heavy clay or waterlogged ground. They prefer [alkaline soil](#) rather than acid therefore if you can grow rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias etc with ease, you should add [ground limestone](#) to the area you intend to plant. Most [grape vines](#) that you can buy will have been grafted onto a strong rootstock, this is to increase the growth and health of the vine and stops the spread of disease.

- For outdoor vines choose the sunniest part of the garden, so a south facing aspect is ideal...generally the sunnier the spot you choose the sweeter the grape.
- [Dig](#) a hole to the same depth that the vine was planted to previously (usually you can see a mark where the soil used to come up to on the stem).
- At the bottom of the hole make a small mound in the centre.
- Do not add fertilizer at this stage as this will tend to cause the vines to put on too much leaf growth next spring. For best results add two scoops of [Rootgrow mycorrhizal fungi](#) to the bottom of the hole so that the roots are able to come into direct contact with the fungi.
- Spread the roots over the mound, backfill the hole and water well. Once watered add a mulch to help retain the moisture and suppress weeds.
- At this stage it is important to [cut](#) your vine right off leaving just three buds close to the ground and mark the vines position with a strong cane.
- During the first summer it is advisable to feed with a high potash feed such as [sulphate of potash](#) or even a liquid tomato food such as [Tomorite](#).

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