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DURANGO NURSERY & SUPPLY  
271 Kay Cee Lane, Durango CO  
www.durangonursery.com  
970-259-8800



## Grapes

Grapes are a perfect addition to any garden; they can add visual intrigue to outdoor living spaces by growing onto shade arbors or trellises. With the proper care and variety, grapes can provide your garden with shade, beauty, and sweet fruit for many seasons.

### Grape Care

#### Planting

For best results, plant your grape vines in the spring. Once your plants arrive, plant them immediately. If you cannot plant immediately, keep new arrivals cool and roots moist. To keep cool, it is recommended that you store in refrigerator or cool place.

Keep new arrivals cool and roots moist. Rehydrate the roots by soaking in water for a few hours just before planting, have your vine supports in place before planting. You can use a stake if no other support is available. Dig a wide, deep hole, so roots can be spread out completely. Cut off broken roots. Plant at the same depth as in the nursery, 6'-8' apart. Insert the stake carefully, so you do not injure the roots. Right after planting, prune back to the best cane with 2-3 healthy, living, fat buds (nodes). After the danger of spring frost is over and shoot growth begins, remove all but two of the strongest shoots. Remove all the flower clusters this first growing season. The goal in the first year is to establish the plant with strong roots and a straight trunk. Water after planting.

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#### Pruning

Pruning maintains the vine's form, size, vigor, and next season's fruiting wood. Pruning should be done when the vines are dormant in late winter or early spring. Do not prune when vines freeze, because they are brittle and can damage easily. Grape vines produce more wood than necessary. Typically, 70-90 percent of the new growth is removed on a mature vine. Leave 3-4 buds per foot of cordon length (horizontal trunk on the vine). Balanced pruning means balancing next season's crop with last season's growth by judging how many buds to leave during pruning. Balanced pruning involves only wood produced during the previous growing season. Wood two years and older is not counted or pruned annually in this system.



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## Grape Varieties

### Concord Grape

(*Vitis labrusca* 'Eastern Concord')

- Zone 5, max. elevation 6,500 ft.
- 20'-25' height, 4' width

The concord grape is the dominant cold climate American variety, it has a blue- black color. They are ready for harvesting when they taste good; this tends to be around late September. They are great tasting off the vine, they are also good for jams, jellies, juice, and wine. They are a slip-skin variety with large seeds.

### Himrod Grape

(*Vitis labrusca* 'Himrod')

- Zone 5, max. elevation 6,500 ft.
- 20'-25' height, 4' width

The Himrod grape is one of the hardiest varieties of white seedless grapes. This high-quality variety is great for fresh eating as a sweet dessert grape or drying as raisins. The vine works wonderfully as an ornamental vine on an arbor or trellis. This variety tolerates a wide variety of soil conditions.

### Reliance Seedless Grape

(*Vitis labrusca* 'Reliance Seedless')

- Zone 5, max. elevation 6,500 ft.
- 20'25' height, 4' width

These juicy, deep red grapes are considered some of the best tasting grapes. They are great for fresh eating as well as fruit salads. This is a very winter hardy plant; it blooms late, avoiding those late spring frosts and ripens in August.