

# California Grape

*Vitis californica*



## General Information

- Edible soft and sweet purple fruits
- Sun Exposure: Part shade, Full sun
- Water needs: Low, moderate, or high
- Cold Tolerance: Tolerates cold to 20-25 degrees F
- Days to harvest: Pick grapes on dry days, and taste grapes to see if they are sweet enough.
- Harvest season: Early fall, around September

## Planting Guide

- Time of year to plant: In winter months, around January or February
- Location: Sunny area with very well drained soil. Grapes are compatible with a variety of soil types, however, more fertile soils yield larger grapes usually used as table grapes. If no well drained soil is available, use compost for at least 2 inches deep into the soil.
- Spacing: For less fertile soils, 8 feet apart; for more fertile soils, 12 feet apart.
- Initial Composting: Add compost to the soil up to 2 in. thick

## Care Guide

- Pruning: Prune in early winter, where old neglected vines are pruned fully each year, and other sturdier canes cut back 3 to 4 feet
  - Prune off old wood and make way for new fruiting wood to grow, for example, by cutting off wood not growing on the wires
- Fertilization: Use nitrogen rich fertilizers when plants' flowers are blossoming or when grapes are about ¼ inch across
- Irrigation: For first year, water 1 inch once a week by directly moistening the roots
  - Once established, seldom needs watering

- Mulching: Not necessary once the plant establishes, but can be useful in the beginning stages of planting

Sources:

[UC Master Gardener Program: Growing Grapes in Your Backyard](#)

[How and When to Prune a Grapevine](#)

[Grapevine Fertilizer: When and How to Fertilize Grapes](#)

[Grapes Planting, Care, Pruning, and Harvesting Instructions](#)

[California Grape on Calscape](#)