What can you grow?

There are basically three types of table grapes:

- American cultivars (*Vitis labrusca*)
- European cultivars (*Vitis vinifera*)
- Hybrid cultivars (parentage includes American & European)

### American types (*Vitis labrusca*)
- Native to Eastern USA
- Fruit have stronger, characteristic “foxy flavor”
- Berries usually have a slip skin (skin separates from pulp)
- Plants are generally vigorous
- Most resistant to disease and insects (e.g. phylloxera)
- Important cultivars: ‘Concord’ and ‘Niagara’ juice grapes

### European types (*Vitis vinifera*)
- Native to southeastern Europe
- Most common type for wine and commercial table grapes
- Fruit have milder flavor
- Berries on table grapes may have “crispy” texture
- Cultivars range in vigor
- Least resistant to disease and insects

### Hybrid types
- Characteristics range, depending on cultivar

### American types (*Vitis labrusca*) or hybrids
- 'Concord'
- 'Price'
- 'Reliance'
- 'Canadice'
- 'Vanessa'
- 'Swenson Red'
- 'Jupiter'

### Flame Seedless

**Image of Flame Seedless grapes**
American types (Vitis labrusca) or hybrids

- Venus
- New York Muscat
- Niagara
- Interlaken
- Lakemont
- Remaily Seedless

- Full sun
- Well-drained soil
- Wide tolerance for soil pH
- Space
- Avoid "frost pockets"

Pruning/training options

Growth stages (dates for Willamette Valley)

- Dormant (Nov.-Mar.)
- Budbreak (early April)
- Shoot growth
- Bloom (early June)
- Veraison (color change) mid-August
- Ready for harvest (early Sept.-mid Oct.)

Single downward canopy, pruning example

At planting

- Prune to 2 buds
- Select one shoot to become trunk, remove all others

Courtesy: Neil Bell, OSU Extension

Courtesy: Patty Skinkis, OSU Extension

Bernadine Strik, Professor, Oregon State University
• Train shoot/trunk as it grows
• Top at wire or arc along wire depending on training system or vine vigor

Before pruning in first winter

After pruning & tying

Establishing the vine “framework” (year 2)
• Pick shoots in proper locations
• Remove all un-wanted shoots
• When dormant, shorten each of the canes to limit fruit production

Concentrating growth (suckering)
Remove shoots along trunk, keeping ones in proper locations

After pruning in first winter

Trunk did not make the 6 ft wire

First cropping year (year 3 or 4)

Fruiting zone
Cane Pruning

Trunk
Cane left at pruning last winter

Shoot

Cane Pruning, example
Two-cane vertical system

Select 2 new 1-year-old canes close to trunk

Before Pruning

After pruning

Cane Pruning – what not to do

By mistake, all one-year-old wood was removed leaving only two-year old wood. There will be no fruit this year!

Mature Vines (Year 4 or 5):
Spur Pruning

Some table grapes are not suited to spur pruning as the basal buds are not fertile

Spur pruning
Spur Pruning – what not to do

Training to an arbor

Distribute fruiting canes along trunk so that shoots fill arbor. Cane prune.

Geneva Double Curtain (GDC)

“T” trellis at 6-6.5’ high with wire on each side of “T” and a center training wire.

Top view:

Geneva Double Curtain (GDC)

Multiple trunks not necessary

It is important to make the shoots hang down in 2 “curtains” and keep the center open for good light exposure.

Establishing a GDC

Before pruning
Establishing a GDC

After pruning

Trellising

Train on a fence?

Anchors

Head training (no trellis needed)

Train on a fence?

Compound bud

Longitudinal section

Additional spring & summer pruning for good quality

Up to 3 shoots/node

1° shoot most fruitful
2° shoot less fruitful (~50% in V. labrusca)
3° shoot un-fruitful

Shoot thinning:

Done in spring to bring crop down to target level and maintain a good canopy

Remove all but most fruitful shoot/node
Shoot thinning

Remove all but most fruitful shoot/node

Done in spring to bring crop down to target level and maintain a good canopy

Suckering

Remove suckers at base & head of vine through season

Leaf removal:

Leaves removed in fruiting zone on east side of row just after fruit set to improve cluster exposure

Leaf removal:

Proper stage of development for leaf removal

Harvest

• Is fruit mature?
• Grapes do not further ripen after harvest
• Taste the fruit
• Sweetness increases, acidity decreases and flavor improves to a point as grapes mature
• Improper cultivar or under-pruned vine may ripen fruit too late

Do not over crop vines!

Vines that are not pruned hard enough will have poor fruit set, fruit color/quality and late fruit maturation

Poor set – seedless cultivar

Poor set – seeded cultivar

Good set
Common problems

Powdery Mildew

Fruit rot (Botrytis)

A wet weather disease

Disease can affect leaves too

Grape erineum mite

Colonies of mites live in "blisters"

Top of leaf

Bottom of leaf

Dormant oil & sulfur sprays usually control this pest

2,4-D herbicide damage

- Damage due to herbicide drift
- Do not spray any products containing 2,4-D near grapes. They are very sensitive
- Will reduce current season crop and may reduce next year’s crop

Birds

Netting is an effective way to protect against bird damage

Bees

- Honey bees less of problem than yellow jackets
Sunburn of Clusters

Early burn

Usually caused by clusters suddenly becoming exposed to sun due to loss (or removal) of leaves during hot weather

Late burn

Symptoms

Healthy cambium

Partial winter damage

Damaged compound bud

Healthy bud

Winter cold injury

Symptoms

Damaged cane

Full winter damage

European grapes most susceptible

For European grapes in Eastern Oregon

Resources:

- “Growing Table Grapes”, by B. Strik, OSU Extension Service
- This and other OSU Extension publications at: http://catalogue.extension.oregonstate.edu