



Urban Harvest  
Gardening for good.

## Bunch Grapes

Category:	Temperate; deciduous
Hardiness:	Easily withstands freezes
Fruit Family:	Vine fruits
Light:	Full sun
Size:	H & W vary depending on training choices
Soil:	Well-drained
Planting:	Container grown grapes may be planted year round with proper care but they are best planted in January & February during their dormancy



There are only a few varieties of bunching table grapes that are suitable to be grown in Southeast Texas. The well-known market varieties are subject to Pierce's Disease and a number of other diseases which severely restricts their lifespan and renders them a waste of time and effort.

Bunch grapes can grow on a trellis, up a pole and along a wire, or almost anywhere there is something to climb on that can be bird netted.

### Care of Bunch Grape Vines

**Planting:** Plant in a sunny location that is well-drained and where you have established a support system for the vine. Dig a hole that is twice as wide as the container, and the same depth as the root ball. Break up the soil you removed from the hole, but do

not amend it. Set the root ball in the hole and backfill with the unamended soil. In all cases, water well after planting and apply an inch of leaf mold compost around the plant. Mulch with native mulch, pine straw, or well-rotted leaves.

**Pruning & Training:** Bunch grapes can be trained for pruning one of three ways – cane pruning, spur pruning, and head training. The system you choose will depend on your space and gardening style and is also influenced by the variety you select. Grapes must be pruned each year. Without pruning, bunch grapes will produce too many bunches; they will be small, sour, and the vine will quickly lose vigor. Pruning will take a couple of hours per vine and a lot of material will be removed each year. Pruning & training grapes is not difficult. We strongly suggest that you take the Pruning Class offered each year at Urban Harvest.

**Production:** Grapes will begin producing two years from planting.

**Watering:** The first summer after planting, check soil moisture 1-2 times per week and do not let the soil go dry. Grapes appreciate regular irrigation, but do not like soggy soils. They will tolerate short periods of drought.

**Fertilizing:** Grapes are not heavy feeders. Broadcast a few handfuls of slow release organic fertilizer around the base of the plant in February. Apply an inch of compost each year and use organic mulches.

**Harvesting:** Grapes are ripe when dark colored ones change color and when they soften; July or August. Taste them when you think they are ready and keep tasting until they are really sweet.

**Pests:** Install netting by late June to prevent loss to birds. Individual clusters can also be bagged with paper lunch sacks pulled up around the cluster and stapled at the top.

**Winter Protection:** Grapes are not affected by freezing temperatures and do not require protection.

### Varieties of Bunch Grapes for the 2018 Sale

***Black Spanish, Blanc Du Bois, Favorite, Flame***

### Varieties of Bunch Grapes for Southeast Texas

***Black Spanish (Le Noir):*** A sweet and juicy, purple, seeded grape with blue-black skin and vigorous vine growth. It produces large clusters of small to medium sized grapes that are used for fresh eating, juice, jelly and winemaking. It is a heavy and regular producer that is resistant to Pierce's Disease and mildew. 'Black Spanish' ripens August to September and benefits from cane pruning. This variety has been grown in Texas for several hundred years.

***Black Monukka:*** A very old grape variety, originally from Persia. Berries are large with a tender skin and bunches are medium-large and loose. Flavor is crisp, sweet, and delicious. Leaves turn mahogany red after the first cold snap and are beautiful in fall table décor. 'Black Monukka' is beautiful on arbors and fences and is both seedless and self-fertile. It can be cane or spur pruned. Ripens August to September. A superior flavored grape but not known to be long-lived in our area.

***Blanc DuBois (Du Bois):*** A vigorous and long-lived vine resistant to Pierce's Disease. This is a light green, muscat flavored, 3-seeded, July-ripening grape that grows and fruits well on its own roots. This is an award-winning cultivar that is ranked among the very best white, eating and wine grapes, for southern regions of the United States. 'Blanc DuBois' withstands Houston's heat and humidity. Professor Mortensen named it after grape grower Emile DuBois and developed this grape at the University of Florida.

***Champanel:*** A relatively new table and wine grape for the humid southern climate. It is very resistant to heat and drought with good Pierce's Disease resistance. This large black grape has strong but thin skin with tender, juicy flesh. Adapts well in any soil, including alkaline and black soils. Large, loose clusters of grapes that ripen in early July.

**Favorite:** Medium-sized grape with blackish-blue skin and flavorful, juicy flesh. This variety is a seedling selection of *'Black Spanish'*. Good for warm climates and a favorite for home wine making.

**Flame:** Vigorous vine with round, red grapes in medium-sized, loose clusters. It is seedless, self-fertile, sweet and crisp, and a wonderful table grape that ripens in July - August. This is the grape commonly found in the market, but it is even better when vine-ripened.

**Mortensen Hardy:** A super table grape, the size of a quarter, green with a pink blush. Excellent taste with very few seeds. Vigorous vine and, most importantly, superior resistance to Pierce's disease. Ripens the second week of August. Do not plant in sandy soil. Self-fruitful.