

Tips for Success

Foliage: The grape leaves (foliage), known widely for its flavor, can be used in combination with a wide array of cooking dishes and recipes, especially in European cuisine. One of the most notable uses is adding young grape leaves to the cucumber pickling process, to increase the crunchiness of the homemade pickles.

How Do I Know My Grapes Are Ripe?: The best way to tell if your grapes are ripe is by eating them. Test a few to see if they are ready before harvesting, usually in late summer-early fall. Grapes will not continue ripening once they have been picked from the vine.

Where Is The Best Place To Locate My Grapevines?: Select a site with full sun. If you don't have a spot with full sun, make sure it at least gets morning sun. A small amount of afternoon shade won't hurt. Your soil needs to be deep, well-drained, and loose. You also need good air circulation and some sort of support to help train the grapes to grow upward.

First Year Maintenance: For perennials, the first year (or sometimes two) will require additional maintenance. During the first season of growth, even if the plant is known to be drought-tolerant, it is very important to water your plants on a regular basis, meaning up to 3-4 times per week. When plants are in their infancy stage, they need to be watered by their caretaker until they've had a chance to build a strong enough root system to subsist on their own. If you are experiencing severe heat, drought like conditions, or your plants appear consistently droopy, you may need to water your plants almost every day.

Spring Pruning: Early spring pruning is important for producing fruit in the current season, and renewing young canes for the next year. Don't be afraid to cut. When you finish, about 90% of last year's growth will be cut. Simply leave alone two - four laterally growing branches that are tied to the trellis. Entirely cut away all others.



Roberta's Gardens PLANTING AND GROWING GUIDE



Grape Red Candice
Vitis Reliance

We aren't happy if you aren't happy. If you have any questions regarding your order please call us at **1-765-525-4065** during the hours of 8:30 am and 4:30 pm EST.

You can email questions to us at: customerservice@robertasinc.com.

If your bulbs, cuttings, etc. do not sprout, or your plant dies within one year from the date of shipment, we will send you a replacement free of charge. We cannot accept responsibility for losses due to extreme weather or neglect. Simply call us at the above toll tree number or fill out the plant replacement form on our website at RobertasUniqueGardens.com.

Roberta's will replace it with a similar or comparable plant at no charge. If your replacement is not available or it is too late in the season to ship, it will ship the following year.



Roberta's Unique Gardens

P.O. Box 368, Waldron, IN 46182

Monday - Friday 8:30AM - 4:30PM EST

RobertasUniqueGardens.com

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Perennials

Quick Reference

 **Plant Type:** Perennial

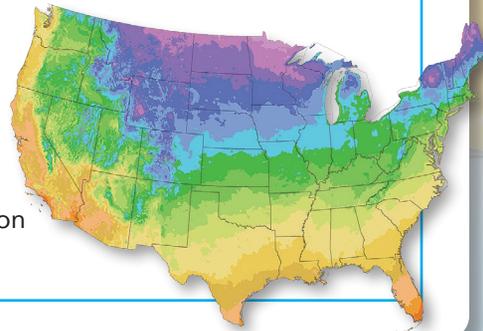
 **Light/Sun:** Full to Partial Sun

 **Mature Height:** 15-20'

 **Mature Spread:** 4-5'

 **Bloom Time:** Fruits in Mid to Late Summer, by Second Season

 **USDA Hardiness Zones:** 4 to 7



Plant Caretaking

Upon Arrival: Each bag contains 1 plant. Remove each rooted cutting from the plastic bags. Cut away any yellow or brown leaves as well as broken roots.

Planting Depth & Spacing: Dig holes twice the width of the root ball and deep enough to accommodate the roots. In order to have clean fruit, the vines must be supported on a trellis, arbor, fence, espalier, or other means

Potted Plants: Use at least a 12 inch pot per plant. Provide a means of support that will accommodate considerable growth. Pot up one size per year if desired.

Soil Preparation: Grapes will grow in many different soils – even soil of sand, gravel, shale, slate or clay. Vine growth is generally improved by adding organic matter such as peat, straw, leaf mold, or other to soil.

Watering: Keep new plants moist until they get established and growing. During the first season, water at least once a week. After the first year, the roots will travel deep and will find adequate moisture for survival requiring less water.

Fertilizer: Use Roberta's Bounty a couple weeks after planting and then once or twice a month all summer long.

Pet Considerations: Ensure your pets do not consume plants. They are not critter resistant as squirrels, deer and raccoons love to munch on the sweet fruit.

Vine Support and Grape Arbors: In order to have clean fruit, the vines must be supported on a trellis, arbor, fence, espalier, or other means. Training and tying the shoots upward on the trellis wires should also begin fairly early. Grape arbors entice vigorous growth and fruit production, at the same time establishing a need for judicious pruning. Basic guidelines are similar in that you establish a main permanent trunk going up over the arbor, with short laterals or spurs from which you select the new fruiting canes each year. If too many old, non-fruiting canes have accumulated, thin about half of them out completely.

Planting Steps

Step 1 Plant in early spring as soon as your soil can be worked. Grapes will grow in most well-draining soils with pH preferably between 5.6 and 6.4.

Step 2 These bareroots have roots radiating from the crown and cane above the crown. The roots should be put into the soil facing downward. You may prune the roots to help them fit into their holes.

Step 3 Place your rooted cutting in a hole large enough to spread roots in a downward outward fashion.

Step 4 Fill hole, tamp soil around grape and water well. Prune cutting back to a single cane leaving 2-3 buds

Step 5 After danger of frost is past and growth has begun, remove all but the two strongest shoots per vine.

