



Growing Fruit: Grapes

Proper Care of Trees for Noxious Pest Avoidance

Important Notice:

Before planting fruit trees, it is the residential growers responsibility to familiarize oneself with the RDOS [Bylaw](#). It is necessary that proper care of fruit trees is taken to prevent & control pest infestations.

Before Planting your Vine:

Table & wine grape vines can only produce healthy fruit if home growers pay careful attention to pruning, sanitation, pest management, & harvest practices. If you are planting the vine for ornamental purposes, consider planting a vine like clematis that will be less bothersome, costly to care for & manage.

General Grapevine Care

Sanitation: Diligent sanitation practice will reduce the risk of pest infestation. Remove dead & decaying fruit & leaves from the vine & trellis area. Maintain a good weeding & visual inspection routine to avoid pests.

Groundcover: A diverse groundcover with various species will promote beneficial insects that will provide natural pest management.

Pruning: Grape vines must be pruned significantly every year in late winter (February-March) Prune out any old & damaged canes to avoid pests & diseases. A common mistake by home gardeners is not pruning enough. Thinning the canopy with pruning allows for more sunlight & airflow to prevent pests & diseases. Do not prune too early, as frost can damage the canes & buds.

Harvesting: Harvest grapes when both color & flavor are desirable to the grower. Remove ALL fruit at harvest & make sure all diseased & insect-infested fruit is disposed of properly.



Pest Avoidance & Management

Important: Avoid chemical intervention (pesticides) & use preventative strategies first. Keeping vines healthy by prioritizing sanitation practice will help reduce pest and disease problems. Grapevines can tolerate moderate amounts of stress from leaf damage & pests. Sprays should be avoided.

Pesticides (last resort): Unnecessary sprays will reduce the number of beneficial insects & may increase vulnerability to pests. Begin with the least toxic product available if preventative measures are no longer adequate. Consult professionals before use.

Pesticide Stewardship: Do not apply in daytime when bees are foraging or if wind speeds are high, or when rain is forecast.

MOST COMMON GRAPE VINE PESTS

Leafhoppers

(25mm = 1 inch)

Cutworm (20+ Species)



Hans Buchler

Hans Buchler

Identification: Adults of both species have red-brown markings on a pale body. Nymphs are pale white & often on undersides of expanded leaves. Yellow/ white spots on leaves & premature leaf drop may be seen.

Identification: Larvae are thick-bodied caterpillars that grow into adult moths. Larvae often reside in the upper layer of soil & will curl up when handled.

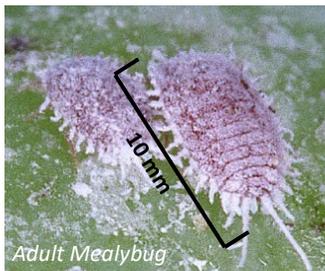
Management: Do a thorough inspection when the first leaves are fully expanded, as adult leafhoppers will lay their eggs at this time. Basal leaf removal & moderate vine vigor with less canopy density will help control pests.

Management: Careful inspection in spring should be done when unopened buds & new shoots are most susceptible to cutworm damage. Keep a mixed ground cover, as cutworms prefer sandy soils with good drainage. Inspect the upper 2-4 inches of soil & destroy any seen.

Mealybug



Whitney Cranshaw, CSU, Bugwood.org



Hans Buchler

Identification: Flat, oval, pink body with a wax coating. During feeding, plant sap is removed & honeydew is produced, inviting disease to attack & mold fungi to grow.

Management: Ants protect mealybugs to acquire the sweet honeydew. Controlling ant populations by applying sticky material around vine trunk will reduce numbers. Mealybugs prefer vigorous vines (unpruned, leggy), so avoiding excess vigor will reduce likelihood of infestation.

Additional Info

Other Pests to Look out for

Grape Phylloxera, Wasps, Soft Scale, Thrips, Erineum Mite, Grape Leaf Rust Mite, Click Beetle, Western Grape Rootworm, Brown Marmorated Stink Bug etc.

More Detailed Pest Descriptions Found Here

[Home & Garden Pest Management Guide for BC Pests of Fruit Trees.](#)

Okanagan Invasive Species Online

This is a useful resource for information on all invasive insect pests of concern in the region. This can be found at: www.OISO.ca



Plant Me Instead Factsheet

For ornamental & native tree or shrub alternatives for fruit bearing trees & shrubs, visit [Tree Fruit Pest Control | RDOS](#)

Powdery Mildew

This is the most common disease of grapevine in the RDOS. The symptoms include a white/ green powdery substance on leaves. For more information, visit the [Best Practices Guide for Grapes: Crop Protection.](#)

Contact your local nursery/ greenhouse if you are unsure about what management strategy should be practiced & how to properly care for your fruit tree.

Noxious Pest Program Video Media:

[Regional District Okanagan Similkameen \(RDOS\) - YouTube](#)