

Grape Vine, enab

Vitis vinifera is the Common Grape Vine, or in Arabic, enab. It is the basic species of vine for cultivars. Sub-species are Vitis vinifera ssp. vinifera, which is used for the production of grapes, and the Wild Grape Vitis vinifera ssp. sylvestris. Vitis is indigenous to the Mediterranean region, central Europe and southwest Asia as far as Iran. Vitis is a climbing plant or liana which can develop vines up to 35 metres long. The leaves are alternate, palmate and lobed. The flowers are unimpressive in panicles, and greenish-yellow in colour; it is from these that the berries known as grapes develop. Vitis grows as a native in riparian forests, plains or hill country. The soil needs to be rich in humus, from dry to moderately moist. Irrigation should be moderate, with low salinity. Vitis appreciates a sunny location. In Arriyadh, it is often seen on farms growing on wooden frames. It should not be too exposed to intense sun. Certain sheltered locations on the wall of a building or a gazebo, where it needs some framework for climbing in partial shade, will be excellent for Vitis. Pruning is required frequently to optimise the growth and to train the plant. The fruits are sour or sweet, depending on the sun and degree of ripeness. The plant attracts birds and bees. In landscape design, V. vinifera can be recommended for shelter, screen, park planting and private gardens, courtyards or containers. Fruit drop should be considered when planning a location.

GENERAL

- Origin : sub-Mediterranean, Mediterranean
- Vigour : fast growing
- Humidity : semi-arid, semi-humid
- Propagation : cuttings
- Maintenance : moderate

CONDITIONS

- Urban climate : vulnerable
- Dessication : vulnerable
- Stagnant water : vulnerable
- Irrigation : medium
- Salinity/ppm : low (1000 ppm)
- Hardiness : -12°C

SHAPE

- Type : climbers
- Height : 5 m-35 m
- Spread : 8 m-40 m
- Foliage : deciduous

FLOWER

- Colour : light green
- Period : May - June

FRUIT

- Type of fruit : berry
- Fruit size : 2 cm
- Toxicity : edible, fruit

