



# Establishing a Home Vineyard

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# Overview

- Site considerations
- Soil considerations
- Pest control/management
- Variety selection/Recommended varieties
- Trellis considerations
- Site preparation and layout
- Ordering info
- Information sources



# Site Considerations

- Chose site that provides
  - Frost avoidance
  - Air drainage
  - Water drainage
  - Full sun (no shade at all)
  - Few natural pest harborages
- Orientation
  - N, NE and Eastern exposures preferred

# Soil Considerations

- Deep soils preferred
- Must be permeable and well drained
- Rocks o.k. (within limits)
- pH 6.5 – 6.8
- Moderately fertile (fertilizer can be a bad thing)





# Pest Management



- Pests include large and small animals, birds, insects, and mold/viruses
- Deer, turkey, and possums can be worse than others in wooded areas
- All TN vineyards must control mold
- Best to establish control methods before or at planting rather than afterwards

# Variety Selection

- Most *Vitis vinifera* varieties do not grow well in TN
  - Not well suited to our environment
- *Vitis Labrusca*, *Vitis rotundifolia*, and French-American hybrid grape varieties grow best here
  - Native grape species to this region as well as varieties developed specifically to survive and grow well



# Recommended Varieties

- Table Grapes:
  - Any Muscadine variety
  - Concord
  - Niagara
  - Reliance
  - Venus
  - Mars
  - Saturn
  - Vanessa
- Wine Grapes:
  - Cayuga
  - Seneca
  - Cynthiana/  
Norton
  - Chambourcin
  - Chardonel
  - Seyval Blanc
  - Vidal Blanc

# Trellis Considerations



- Many different trellis types in use
- Range from single to multiple wire configurations
- Must select trellis to match
  - Grape growth characteristics
  - Selected grape variety vigor
  - Grape canopy characteristics



# Site Preparation and Layout

- Surface preparation
  - Remove vegetation in rows where plants are to be established
  - Leave vegetation/plant grasses in between rows
  - Till and mound soil in row



# Ordering Info

- Trellis Materials and Tools
  - Co-Op, farm supply stores, Tractor Supply, or Home Depot/Lowe's
- Plant stock
  - Sources East of the Rocky Mts recommended over West Coast sources
    - Plants grown in West do not readily adapt to this region
    - Eastern suppliers tend to have the varieties that grow well here
  - AR, NY, PA best states



# Information Sources

- The Mid Atlantic Winegrape Grower's Guide [http://cals.ncsu.edu/hort\\_sci/extension/wine\\_grape.php](http://cals.ncsu.edu/hort_sci/extension/wine_grape.php)
- Vineyard Simple: How to Build and Maintain Your Own Small Vineyard by Tom Powers - \$19.95
- From Vines to Wines: The Complete Guide to Growing Grapes and Making Your Own Wine by Jeff Cox - \$18.95



Questions?