

Mediterranean, Western India

Ar: Enab  
Tr: Enab

Eng: Grape

Tg: Weini

**Ecology:** A well-known deciduous crop that grows best in warm, dry temperate regions and sub-tropics with winter rain (Mediterranean climate). A cool but not very cold winter and a dry hot summer are required for best results (5-20°N, 20-40°S). Grapes require deep loamy soils with a good structure and a high organic-matter content that are also well drained and aerated, salt-free and with a pH of around 6. In Eritrea, grapes were introduced during the Italian occupation and are successfully grown under irrigation in the highlands and midlands, e.g. in Elabered, Asmara, Dekemhare, Adi-keih, 1,500-2,400 m.

**Uses:** Food (fruit fresh or dried, raisins), drink (juice, wine), **bee forage.**

**Description:** A woody perennial climber or trailer with stems up to 20 m long (unless pruned). **LEAVES:** Alternate, **roughly heart-shaped**, entire to **deeply cut into 3-5 lobes**, the thin leaf about 20 cm across, **edges sharply and irregularly toothed**, tip often pointed, base often rounded, sometimes hairy. **FLOWERS:** Small, **green-yellow**, produced in **dense clusters 5-20 cm long beside leaves**, 5 tiny green petals drop off together to show 5 central stamens and the ovary. **FRUIT:** A berry, generally **oval and juicy**, the skin yellow-green or violet-black, **1-4 cm long, the sweet flesh edible, containing a few hard seeds.**

**Propagation:** Budding, grafting, cutting and layering. Vines are easily propagated by hard wood cuttings from good mother plants.

**Seed:**  
**treatment:**  
**storage:**

**Management:** Grapes are grown along stakes, trellises or pergolas which involves a high capital investment when they are grown on a large scale. Normally planted at 2 x 4 m, i.e. 1,250 plants per hectare, occasionally up to 2,000. Plants must be pruned in such a way that a strong framework of branches is formed. Pruning should be done when the vines are dormant, and pruning the first year should aim at forming the permanent shape for the plant. There should be a single stem which is allowed to make two branches just below the bottom line of the trellis (or take two stems from the ground level).

**Remarks:** Visits by honeybees increase both yield and quality of fruit.

