

Western India, Mediterranean

**Common names:** **English:** Grape **Luganda:** Muzabibu.

**Ecology:** A well-known crop plant grown extensively in many warm dry areas around the world for fresh grapes, dried fruit and the production of wines. It has been tried with some success in East Africa but suitable varieties must be selected. Vines will grow in Uganda at altitudes of 1,200-2,100 m.

**Uses:** Food (fruit, raisins), drink (wine, juice).

**Description:** A large woody climber 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 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:** Vines are easily propagated by hard wood cuttings from good mother plants. The following varieties are recommended: Red muscadels - red, berries and bunches small but sweet); Crystal (L) - white; Red Hanepoot (L) - red; Alphonse Lavallee - black, very long bunches; Golden muscat (S) - green, distinctive flavour.

**Seed:**

**treatment:**

**storage:**

**Management:** Recommended spacing is 2.4 m by 3 m. A trellis is required to support the plant. Vines should be pruned when they are dormant (July-August) and pruning in the first year should aim at forming the permanent shape for the plant. There should be a single stem which is allowed to make 2 branches just below the bottom line of the trellis (or take two stems from ground level). This practice is similar to that for passion fruit vines.

**Remarks:** This is an industry which has promise in areas of Kabale, Rukungiri, Kasese, Kabarole, Bushenyi, Mbale and Kapchorwa Districts.

