

Halton Region Master Gardeners

Come Grow With Us



Grape Vine

A gardener has a grapevine against her house which is established but not fruiting. She said she heard or read Mark Cullen say in such a case of a grapevine or plant really up close against a brick house that the calcium in the bricks of the house can stop the grapevine from fruiting. She doesn't want to move the vine, she wants to know what to add to the soil to counteract the calcium, if in fact that is what is stopping the grapes from growing. The vine faces west and she puts horse manure on it so those are good conditions aside from whatever is stopping the grapevine from fruiting.

Valerie (Master Gardener in Training)

I don't think the seedling would be mature enough to overwinter in a pot if it freezes. I would keep it in a cool bright place, lightly watered. When the leaf dies down, let the pot dry, then store it in a plastic bag until Mid March, then bring it into a warm bright spot and start watering again. If and when growth starts fertilize at half strength and plant out after the last frost. Good luck, its chances are 50/50

David M.

Hi Valerie,

There is no issue with growing grapes against brick. It is a common practice and I like many others have had good success with grapes up against a brick wall. Grapes do best in a south or southwestern exposure, though they will grow everywhere and in a wide variety of soils.

Possibilities for not producing fruit:

The variety is not fully hardy and while vegetative buds survive the winter/spring transition, the flower buds cannot.

They have been given too rich soil and are producing vegetative growth over fruiting growth

Fruit forms on one-year canes... improper pruning removed the fruiting wood

Catherine K

I agree with Catherine on the grape and further suggest that the manure is the culprit. Grapes, oddly enough, like a leaner diet.

Belinda (In sandy, dry central Ontario)