

Are Grapes and Wine in Kansas New? No! Think Spain & France!

- Grapes are NATIVE agriculture in Kansas.
- Captain Etiene Venyard de Bourgmont (1724) was shown and supplied grapes by the Native Americans. Made wine from grapes on Missouri River bluffs.
- Lewis and Clark found Bourgmont's grapes and noted: "On the shore were great quantities of summer and fall grapes."
- ▶ 1800's over 250 acres of vineyard established each year. (By Hand!)
- A.M. Burns established a grape nursery in Riley County in 1856. By 1866 his catalogue offered over 150 varieties. (He bred many of them.)

A.M. Burns

1866 sales catalog and grape planting instuctions.

THE CULTIVATION OF THE GRAPE.

By A. M. BURNS, Manhattan, Kan.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Since the last edition of my Catalogue I have procured additional varieties of grapes and other small fruits to test in this climate, and expect soon to offer them for sale. In the Fall trade of 1866 and Spring of '67, I shall confine my sales principally to Grape and Blackberry roots. The small truits, among which we class the Grape, is our "speciality." To this branch of business we shall in future give our undivided supervision at the proper season. Our object is not to propagate better roots than any other establishment "for less money," because we cannot do it; but we claim to produce as good roots, true to name, as can be obtained anywhere for the same amount of money.

Those who will soon commence this useful business in this region can profit by the past ten years of my experiments. A grape cannot be tested in five or six years, and the time required to test a grape vine will be saved to those who will hereafter commence the cultivation of the grape in this region. There is no longer any doubt, hope or fear to pervade the mind of the future grape grower in Western Kansas. No ten years of anxious waiting and toil to learn the varieties of grapes suited to Western and Middle Kansas. Ten years ago it required an iron will to commence to test the vine; all that is now necessary are strong hands and willing hearts, to make our now useless bluffs "bud and blossom like the rose."

Orders for grape vines should be sent in the Summer, and then you get them in the Fall, or, if there are too many orders ahead of yours to fill in the Fall, you will get them early in the Spring. If you get them in the Fall and have not time to plant them, then you can "heel them in," that is, cover them with earth to prevent the water from penetrating the roots.

I will not substitute any varieties not ordered unless instructed so to do. Purchasers will confer a great favor if they will state that in case any of the varieties ordered cannot be supplied, whether they are to be substituted by other varieties as good, and what varieties. If left to us, we will send varieties that we know to be as good and such as we would select for our own use. Those sending orders must give the name, post-office, county and State, plainly written. Also, our customers are requested to notify us of any errors that have occurred in the filling of orders and we will make the correction. We would like to know whether the plants lived and were doing well; this is certainly a satisfaction to the seller. We are willing to replace any plant (although we do not agree to do so,) that may die, if we have any left at the end of the season. We deliver packages of our grape vines or black berries either at the Express or Post office, or Railroad office in Manhattan, as we may de directed; then our responsibility ends. In no case will we assume any responsibility after such delivery.

You will see by the Catalogue that I am determined to suit the most fastidious. No trouble or expense has been spared to collect' every noted grape for trial, and although I have not made it pay (nor do I expect to for a year or so) as my experiments are not yet ended. The great object I have had in view was to test the varieties suited, and learn how to produce the best roots by the different methods at the lowest living rates.

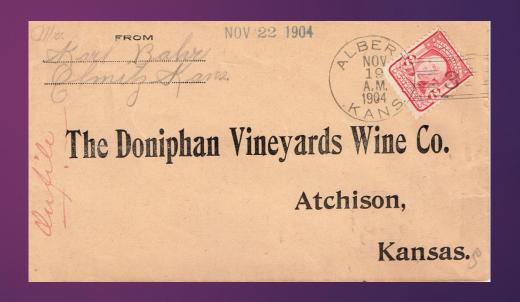
I do not desire the name of selling cheap plants or dear ones, but I do want to produce good plants. I am well aware that if I send out plants of an inferior qualty, that people will not buy of me in future years. If I make it a rule to send good roots I can always sell my stock with out sending out any agents or pedlers, and so can any firm.

Are Grapes and Wine in Kansas New? No!

- Adam and Jacob Brenner from Deidesheim, Rheinpfalz, Germany
- Settled Donipan County, Established grapes 1864
- Brenner Vineyards Historic District, National Register
- Stone Bridge, Wabaunsee County, Cheese & Wine Cellars
- Wabaunsee County 1885 Atlas plat contains all vineyards & orchards
- Stech Family Cellar, wine and whiskey, property same section as part of Bacchus Ranch, the current Prairie Fire Winery Location.

Are Grapes and Wine in Kansas New? No!

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|-----------------------|---|--------------------|------------|
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Stone Bridge Boot Hill Rd, Wabaunsee County



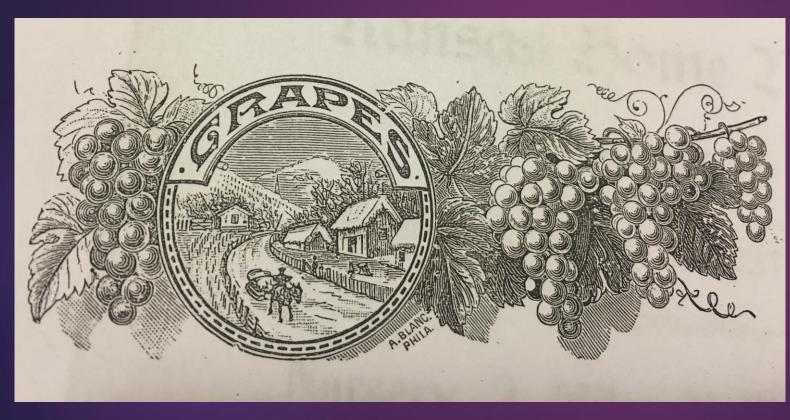


Stech Family 1-70 Rest Area, Wabaunsee County





1800's Catalogs





The more things change, the more they stay the same.

FRUIT DEPARTMENT

29

Soils—Good grapes are grown on various soils, sandy, clayey, loamy, etc. The imust be well drained, and there should be a free exposure to the sun and air.

Crops—Crop grapes moderately if you would have fine, well-ripened fruit. A ripe seapable of bringing only a certain amount of fruit to perfection, proportioned vine is capable and strength; but it usually sets more fruit than it can mature; reduce the to its size and strength; but it usually sets more fruit than it can mature; reduce the top early in the season to moderate number of good clusters and cut off the small erop early in the remainder will be worth more than the whole would have been a very heavy crop is usually a disastrous one.

pruning—Annual and careful pruning is essential to the production of good grapes. If the roots are called upon to support too much wood, they cannot bring to grapes in errop of fruit. The pruning should be done in November, December, repruary or March, while the vines are entirely dormant.

Trained Vines—There are many methods of training grape vines, but as trellises are most generally employed, we will confine our suggestions to a description of the trellis method. To construct a trellis take posts of oak, cedar, or chestnut, 8 to 10 feet realismethod. To construct a trellis take posts of oak, cedar, or chestnut, 8 to 10 feet long, set them 3 feet in the ground and about 12 feet apart. Stretch No. 9 galvanized wire tightly along the posts and fasten them to each. Let the first wire be 18 inches from the ground and the distance between the wire 12 inches. Wooden slats about from the greater distance preferable. Set the vines about 20 feet apart. Prune the apart, a greater distance preferable. Set the vines about 20 feet apart. Prune the apart, a two canes for two years after they are planted. In February or March these canes should be cut back to 5 or 6 feet each, and tied along the lower wire or slat of the trellis horizontally.



Fruited Grape Vine

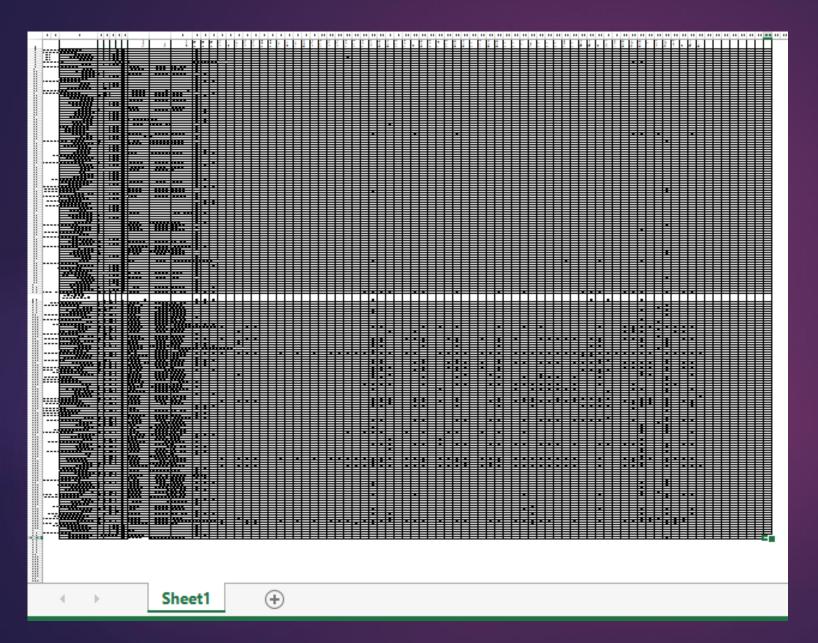
When the growth commences in spring the young shoots must be reduced by disbudding so that they may stand about a foot apart on the cane, selecting of course strong healthy shoots; as they grow they are tied up to a second, third and fourth wire or slet, and all other superfluous ones removed, as well as the young laterals, which will appear on vigorous vines; but the first fruit-bearing shoots are allowed to extend themselves at will until September, when they may be pinched off at the end to assist the ripening of the wood. The vine in autumn, with the fruit on, will present the appearance of the above cut and before pruning in the autumn, after the leaves are off the follow appearance. The next pruning, which may be done in November or December, if it is desirable to lay the vines down and cover them over for the winter; or in February or March if not laid down, consists in cutting back all young wood of the previous year's growth (except such shoots as may be required to extend the horizontal arms), to within one or two good buds of the bearing canes on the lower wire, giving the vine the appearance of the following cut:



Pruned Vine

Bearing Vine Before Pruning

Each season thereafter the vines are to be treated in the same manner, cutting back every year to file lower wire or slat, extending the vine only in a horizontal direction, thinning vines in the rows by digging up every other plant, if necessary, but never growing any grape above the second wire, and renewing the bearing canes by new shoots from the stumps when required.

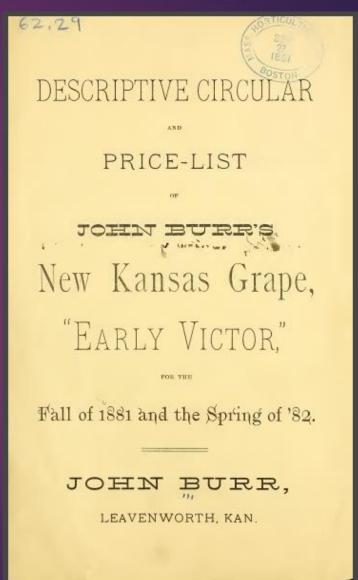


Analysis of Nursery Catalogs for Grapes Available in Kansas from 1865-1952

- 287 Grape Varietals for Sale
- 202 Actual Varietals for sale
- 95 to potentially obtain and replant.
- Pre Prohibition: 200+
- Post Prohibition: 3
- Concord, Fredonia, Niagara

Grape Breeders in Kansas

- Two Grape breeders located in Leavenworth KS.
- John Burr (At least 24)
- Dr J.K. Stayman. (At least 21)
- (Also Stayman Winesap Apple)
- ▶ 1881 Guide of Nurserymen lists 28 pages of individuals.



USDA National Plant Germplasm System

- Geneva, NY & UC Davis
- Each has unique holdings
- Able to obtain 30 cultivars to date
- Additional Potentially available in US
- Some only available internationally
- Will be planted in a separate Heritage vineyard for study.
- Likely have not been planted in Kansas in over 100 years.

| Agawam | Diamond | Empire State | Moyer | Thompson |
|----------------|----------|--------------|---------|-----------|
| Alexander | Diana | Goethe | Ontario | Ulster |
| Brighton | Dutchess | lves | Perkins | Vergennes |
| Campbell Early | Eaton | Lindley | Salem | Wilcox |
| Clinton | Eclipse | Lutie | Seneca | Wilder |
| Delaware | Elvira | MO Riesling | Taylor | Worden |

Can we propagate vines today?

- Yes, we can!
- ► Why not?
- Replicate your best vines
- Fill in missing vines
- Reproduce proven hardy vines

- Save Money, vine cost increasing
- Trade labor/education for cuttings
- ***Cannot propagate patented varietals without paying the royalty.

Taking & Prepping Cuttings

- Not too early (Natural inhibitors to remain dormant)
- First 1-2 feet of wood is best
- Pencil to ¾ inch thick (Some Amer. very thin)
- Well matured and developed, round w/ small pith, not flat or misshapen.
- ▶ 12"-18" (Min 3 buds)
- Top cut 1" above top bud with angle
- Bottom cut 1/4 " below bud

- Bundling:
- Sisal (Or anything else handy)
- ▶ 36/Bundle
- Waterproof Tags!
- Soil:
- Potting Mix vs. Potting Soil

Storing & Callusing

- Storing:
- Sealed & Cool (Refrigerator 32-35 degrees F. Up to a year.)
- Peat Moss, wood chips, etc. (Peat has natural fungicidal properties.)
- ▶ 12" X 18" X 6" box will hold over 200 cuttings.
- Bag (Retain Mosture)
- Clean and disinfect with 5% bleach solution or Chinosol.
- One sheet of most paper towel will keep a 1 gallon ziplock bag moist.
- Do not let dry out!

- Callousing
- 1-2 weeks before planting
- Does not form during winter storage
- Must be warm, 80-85 degree F root temp
- (Top of Fridge, Black Plastic Bag)
- At 70 degrees F, callusing takes a month.
- If root temp is cooler, take cuttings well before bud swell.

Green Cuttings

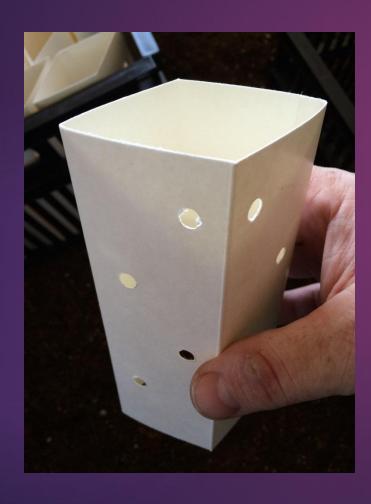
- ▶ 6" long
- At least 2-3 Nodes
- ► Leave 1 leaf at top
- *Helpful with difficult varietals....Like Norton.

How we do it:

- Cuttings are taken from the vineyard, soaked and placed into plant trays. We do not store them.
- Assemble and prep planting trays with bands and soil ahead of time if possible
- Soak cuttings in water for 24 hours. (We use a macro bin with Captan.)
- Dip cutting in rooting hormone
- Press cutting into the center of the band, ¾ of the length of the band.
- Tap trays down to settle dirt, top up
- Keep cuttings & tray out of direct sunlight (May break bud prior to callousing.)
- Keep soil moist, but water very little. (Avoid greenhouse mold)
- When rooted, acclimate to outdoors & plant.





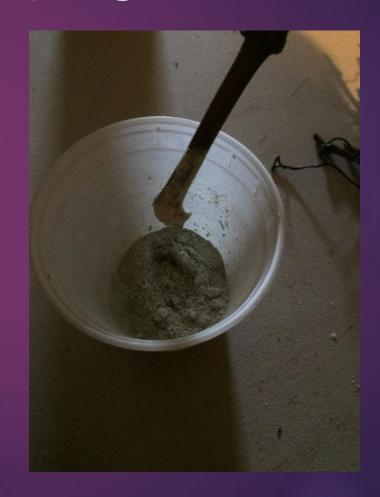














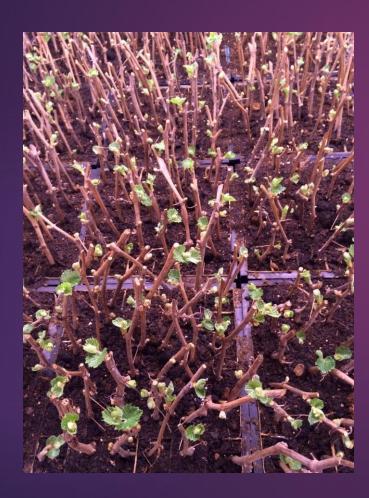






- Nursery Tables:
- ▶ 4'X 8' Plywood Table. 2 foot tall.
- Trays fit 4 X 7, overhanging one plant band on each side.
- ► Each Table holds 1008 cuttings.
- Standard Home Depot Shop 48" fluorescent shop lamp with plant/aquarium bulbs.











Thank you!

Questions?