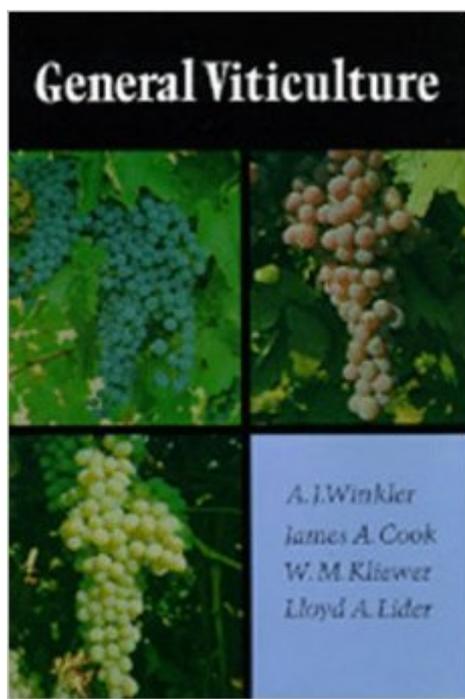


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General Viticulture



Synopsis

Wherever grapevines are cultivated, this book will be welcome because it fills a long-standing need for a clear, concise treatment of modern viticulture. During the past fifty years, more progress has been made in the science and art of growing grapes for table use and raisin or wine production than in any previous century. This new edition has been revised throughout. The chapters on vine structure, vine physiology, the grape flower and berry set, development and composition of grapes, and means of improving grape quality add to our knowledge of the vine and its functions. The text is designed to enable those concerned with either vine or fruit problems to arrive at considered diagnoses. The student will find the text and the cited references a comprehensive source of information. The grape and allied industries should welcome the updating of the major portion of the book. Here the emphasis is on modern practices in vineyard management in arid and semi-arid regions; with special reference to California. Full and detailed treatment is provided on propagation, supports, training young vines, pruning, cultivation and chemical weed control, irrigation, soil management, diseases and pests, and harvesting, packing and storage. The practices recommended in the book are based on the extensive research conducted in California and elsewhere by the authors and their distinguished colleagues. Examples of practices based on experiments are: methods of propagation which by-pass the usual one-year-in-the-vine-nursery; pruning as related to leaf area and time of leaf functioning, and its effect on berry set and fruit development; virus disease control through thermotherapy and soil fumigation; pests held in check by sanitary, chemical, and biological procedures; irrigation practices as related to soil texture. Tissue analyses are employed as guidelines indicating the mineral deficiencies or excesses of vines. Machine harvesting of raisins (with cane cutting) and some wine grape varieties with problems are described. The regional recommendations for table and raisin varieties are based on long years of observations, while those for wine grapes are the results of studies of the interrelation of variety and the heat summation of the different climatic areas. No one concerned with the cultivation of grapes can afford to be without this book.

Book Information

Hardcover: 710 pages

Publisher: University of California Press; Revised & enlarged edition (December 13, 1974)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0520025911

ISBN-13: 978-0520025912

Product Dimensions: 6.2 x 1.6 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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Customer Reviews

I have no regrets buying General Viticulture. It is, after all, a standard reference. But in many ways it is now a little outdated and modern experience and advice is lacking. It should therefore be considered an important part, but only a part, of the basic library of anyone doing or contemplating viticulture. The academic style of writing does not lend itself to the "do-it-yourself" approach. The section on laying out a vineyard, for example, is more academic than practical, at least in my opinion. A more modern book would, of course, have better photographs and graphics, and this is what I miss most.

I got the book "General Viticulture" originally back in 1977. I've looked at it recently at some better book stores. It is a powerhouse of information, there is no doubt, but unfortunately, it has not been updated in some time. Another drawback to the book is its lack of grape culture outside the "California" scene. There are some new strides in viticulture going on in the midwest, and north east that are not even remotely covered. The training systems and specifics of the NEWER American hybrids, with works from Elmer Swenson, David MacGregor, Dr. Tony Bell, Dr. Peter Hemstad of the University of Minnesota, to name a few is not even mentioned. I rated it 4 stars for its excellent overview of just about every Vinifera, its characteristic and management, especially related to California and similar climates around the world. It is still a great reference book, just needs to be revised sometime.

Although this book could use an update, it is an excellent general reference on U.S. grape growing practices and common problems, written by experts in the field. It is a well written technical book with many black and white photos and a good bibliography. I found the style very readable and not too difficult for a novice to follow, though some sections (e.g. the section about diseases) needed a little extra time. A must for anyone seriously thinking of putting in a vineyard.

I agree that this text could use an update, especially on the newer varieties of grapes which have been developed in the past decade, however this text will make you a vintner if you read it in depth and acquire some "hands on" experience to go with it. The text is high quality print, and mine is covered with plastic and accompanies me often in the vineyards. It's focus is on the California industry but it is also a good guide for the northeastern USA and rest of the world.

The book I was sent, is not an original print edition, but a poor quality copy. The photos are almost useless, and the printing of marginal notes gives it away as a cheap duplicate. I tried to post the comment about Berkeley Book Company, but my post has not been published.

This is still a useful book but quite outdated. Basics are still valid but much has changed in vineyard practices over the last 40 years. Although the description says that it is a "new edition, updated throughout". That revision took place before was even a sparkle in Jeff Bezo's eye. Given its price, I suggest looking at some of the other books on vitaculture sold by .

The blurb for this textbook on viticulture touted that it was now updated and revised. The original was from 1962 and the 'new' revision is from 1974. This book is also limited in scope to growing grapes in California, focuses on large scale industrial growers, and is illustrated by black and white photos. Having griped about all this, the book is still nevertheless useful in terms of its detailed explanation of grape stock, stages of growth, pruning, trellis types, diseases, soil, irrigation, and fertilizing. It would be a terrific if the University of California press came out with a truly 'new' revision that recognized the changes to viticulture in the United States over the last THIRTY years. Even a non-professional who drinks much wine knows that the wine industry has grown beyond the borders of California and that it has been moving toward sustainability and organic farming of which there is barely a sentence in this book.

Very in depth details on growing wine grapes. Would get five stars if it had a revision to update its 70's information to include modern hybrid varieties. Very glad I bought this book.

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