



***Vitis* spp.**
Grape vine, wild grape

Vitaceae (Grape Family)

Blooming season: May–June

Plant:

Perennial, woody climbing vine; stems up to 35 m long, but in cultivation usually reduced by annual pruning to 1–3 m (Duke, 1983)

Leaves:

Leaves thin, circular to circular-ovate, 5–23 cm broad, margins dentate or jagged, basal sinus deep and lobes often overlapping, 5–7-lobed, glabrescent above, often with persistent tomentum beneath; tendrils branched, normally opposite 2 leaves out of three. (Duke, 1983)

Flower:

Flowers numerous, in dense panicles opposite leaves; flower clusters and tendrils absent at every third node; calyx very shortly 5-lobed; petals about 5 mm, pale green, sweet-scented. (Duke, 1983)

Fruit:

Fruit a soft, pulpy berry, skin adhering to pulp, oval or oblong, ellipsoid to globose, skin green, yellow, red or purplish-black, in large, long clusters; seeds 2–3, sometimes none, pyriform, with rather long beak. (Duke, 1983)

Geographic range:

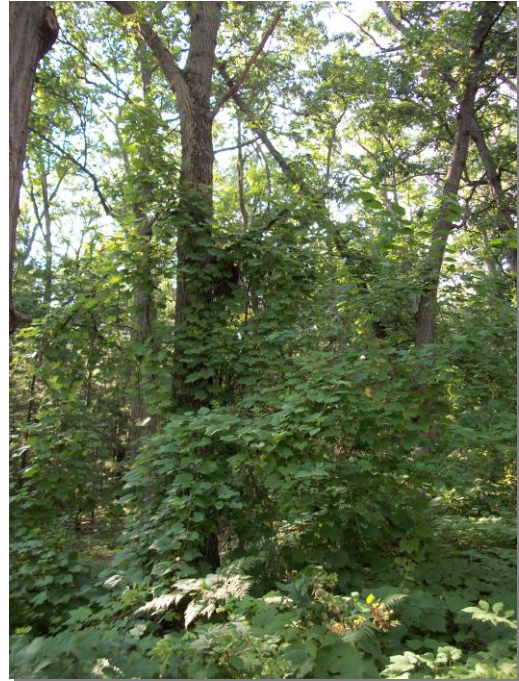
Northern and South America, Central and North America, Asia, Europe. (Jackson, 2008)

Habitat:

Sandy or gravelly clay loams are most desirable, as they provide good drainage. Soil fertility is not as important as soil structure. (Duke, 1983)

Common local companions:

White Oak, Red Oak, Black Oak, Maple, and Cherry trees.



Kasey Hartz Natural Area Reference Sheet



Muskegon Community College

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2

Usages:

Human: Cultured for fruit, eaten fresh or processed into wine, raisins, juice, with some cultivars adapted for the canning industry. Grape seeds contain 6–20% oil, used for edible purposes, soaps, and as a linseed substitute. The leaves of this and other species are eaten in other cultures.

Medicinal uses: Sap of young branches used as remedy for skin diseases. Leaves are an astringent, used in diarrhea. Juice of unripe fruit are used as an astringent and used in throat affections. Dried fruit demulcent, cooling, sweet, laxative, stomachic, used in thirst, heat of body, coughs, hoarseness, consumption and in wasting diseases. A malagma made from the seed is said to be a folk remedy for condylomata of the joints. The fruit, prepared in various manners, is said to remedy mola, uterine tumors, hardness of the liver, tumors, and cancer. The juice, prepared in various manners, is said to remedy tumors of the tonsils, excrescences of the seat, tumors of the faces, indurations, tumors of the neck, chronic tumors, and hard cancers. (Duke, 1983) Grape seed extract has been shown to lower blood pressure and LDL cholesterol levels, and may help lessen water retention associated with PMS. (Hammers, 2006) A scientific study provided evidence that an extract of the seed proanthocyanidins may be beneficial in preventing breast and colon cancer. (Singletary, 2001) A powder made from the grapes has been shown to lower serum triglycerides in postmenopausal women, which may lower the risk they have of experiencing a coronary event. (Twait, 2007)

Animal: Eaten by birds, squirrels, black bears, and other animals.

Why is it called *that*?

Vitis is the latin word for vine. (Oklahoma, 1999)

Prepared by: Hope Buell October 2010

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- * Used as a main source of information