



**Timely Viticulture**

- Dormant
- Pre-Bloom
- Bloom
- Post Bloom
- Mid Season
- Pre-Harvest
- Harvest
- Post Harvest
- Dormant

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"Timely Vit" is designed to give those in the Maryland grape industry a timely reminder on procedures or topics they should be considering in the vineyard.

## Grow Tubes

By Joseph A. Fiola, Ph.D., Extension Specialist in Viticulture and Small Fruit

There is a lot of new vines going in and many people are asking questions about grow tubes. The following is a short list of considerations for using (or not using) grow tubes with your new planting.

### Benefits

- Reducing animal damage
- Supplying moisture through condensation of humidity
- Physical protection from herbicide sprays
- Increased growth rate
- Replaces stake
- Physical protection

### Limitations

- Cost
- Initial cost of tube
- Labor for installation
- Labor for removal
- Growth rate - Trunk "twist" and quality of permanent trunk wood
- Promotes single trunk – most want at least two
- Winter damage – if not removed properly
- High humidity and protection promotes diseases and insects

For complete fact sheets on both the benefits and drawbacks of grow tubes, please go to my web site <http://extension.umd.edu/smallfruit> Go : Grapes - Starting a Vineyard - Training Systems. They are in Adobe/pdf format.

#### Grow Tubes - The Benefits

[https://www.extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/\\_docs/programs/viticulture/GrowTubesBenefits.pdf](https://www.extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/viticulture/GrowTubesBenefits.pdf)

#### Grow Tubes - The Drawbacks

[https://www.extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/\\_docs/programs/viticulture/GrowTubesDrawbacks.pdf](https://www.extension.umd.edu/sites/default/files/_docs/programs/viticulture/GrowTubesDrawbacks.pdf)

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