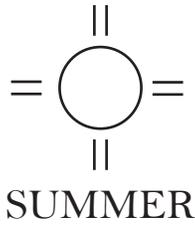


HOW TO GROW A GRAPE VINE



WINTER

YEAR 1: ESTABLISH ROOTS

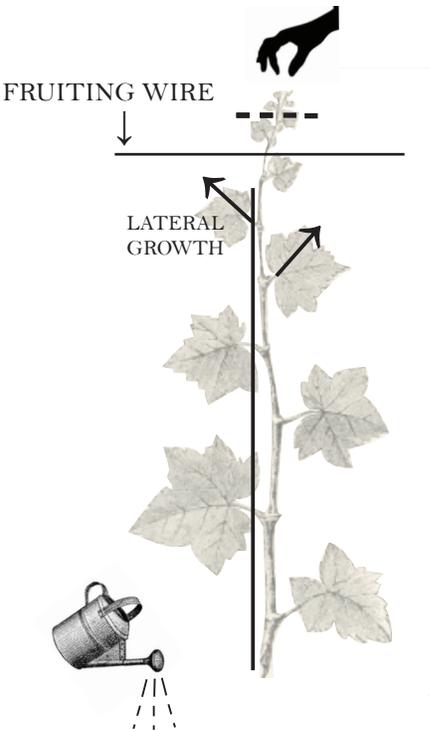


Dig hole in full sun and plant. The vine will need a structure supporting it as it grows. You can build a trellis or use an existing structure such as a railing, fence or arbor. It is very important that the roots are not tangled and that they are pointing downwards. It is also very important that the graft union (the waxy part) is as far above the ground as possible. Water often in the first few years.

Prune back to the two bottom buds. (All the way back!) Cut at an angle sloping away from the top bud. Make the cut $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch above the top bud. All cuts will be made in the same way throughout the life of the vine.

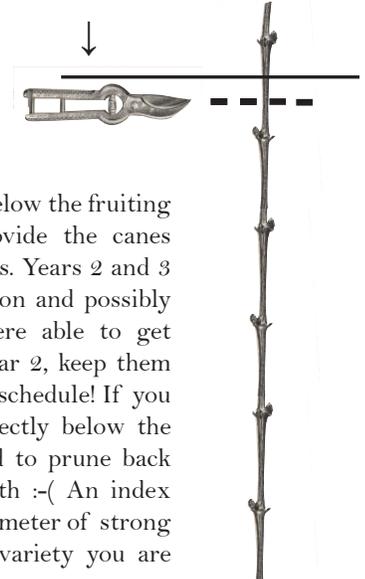


YEAR 2: ESTABLISH TRUNK

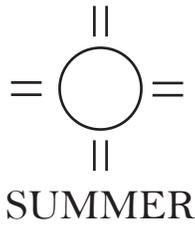


Train the vine upwards as last year. This year establish a horizontal 'fruiting wire.' Commercial fruiting wires are waist high. But you can use a railing or an arbor or whatever horizontal structure you have. Once the vine climbs above the fruiting wire pinch the tip off. This will allow the buds below the tip to grow laterally. Train the lateral growth onto the fruiting wire. Remove any fruit to promote vegetative growth.

FRUITING WIRE



Prune to the buds directly below the fruiting wire. These buds will provide the canes that will become the cordons. Years 2 and 3 require flexibility, imagination and possibly disappointment. If you were able to get strong lateral growth in year 2, keep them and you are a year ahead of schedule! If you still have weak growth directly below the fruiting wire, you will need to prune back to a point of strong growth :- (An index finger is more or less the diameter of strong growth depending on the variety you are growing.



YEAR 3: ESTABLISH CORDONS (ARMS)

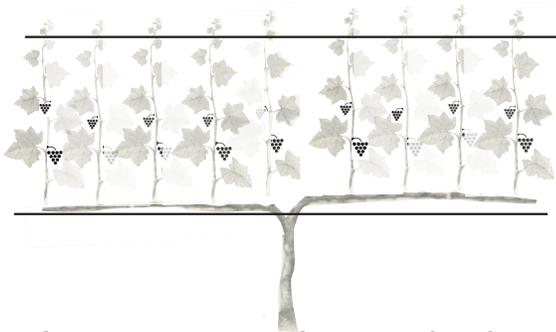
LATERAL GROWTH

Train two strong shoots onto the fruiting wire. Although you will only need two it may make sense to keep additional shoots as back-up. However, remove any unwanted growth from lower on the trunk. Once the shoot has grown the length of the fruiting wire (3-4 feet per arm), remove the tip. This will encourage lateral growth and begin establishing the spur positions. Once again, you may have been able to reach this point in year 2. If you were you may be able to get away with allowing a small amount of grapes in year 3. The more grapes you have the less the vine will grow. So if you still need growth, remove fruit to encourage growth.

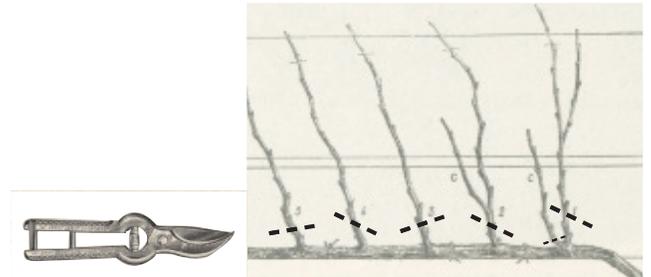
SPUR POSITIONS

Wrap the two canes around the fruiting wire for a couple turns and tie loosely. Each arm should be 3-4 feet. If good lateral growth was achieved prune the lateral canes back to two buds. If the lateral growth was weak prune back to one bud. These are your spur positions. Ideal spur positions are separated by about the hand's width (6 inches).

YEAR 4: ESTABLISH SPUR POSITIONS & HARVEST FRUIT



Allow shoots to grow upwards. It may be advantageous to establish other wires for the vines to climb on. Each shoot is the site of your permanent spur position. Choose shoots that are strong, growing upwards and spaced about 6 inches apart and thin the rest. Remove shoots growing out the trunk and the base (called suckers). Thin all shoots that grow from the trunk. If growth is good leave the fruit on for harvest in the fall. Enjoy! At this point you can begin watering rarely. Spray elemental sulfur or other products to protect against powdery mildew from bud-break until the fruit changes color (veraison).



Prune the dormant canes back to two buds. Each of these buds will produce two shoots and each shoot will produce two clusters. Repeat this process each year, leaving a total of two buds at each spur position. If growth is weak leave 1 bud and if growth is overly vigorous leave more than 2. This process sets up what is called a spur pruned cordon system. You can use the techniques discussed here to set up a system that fits your needs. Be imaginative and have fun!

For more information including specifics about the varietal you chose today please visit devo.ucdavis.edu