



Growing Table Grapes in the Home Garden

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What can you grow?

There are basically three types of table grapes:

- American cultivars (*Vitis labrusca*)
- European cultivars (*Vitis vinifera*)
- Hybrid cultivars (parentage includes American & European)



American types (*Vitis labrusca*)

- Native to Eastern USA
- Fruit have stronger, characteristic “foxy flavor”
- Berries usually have a slip skin (skin separates from pulp)
- Plants are generally vigorous
- Most resistant to disease and insects (e.g. phylloxera)
- Important cultivars: ‘Concord’ and ‘Niagara’ juice grapes



European types (*Vitis vinifera*)

- Native to southeastern Europe
- Most common type for wine and commercial table grapes
- Fruit have milder flavor
- Berries on table grapes may have “crispy” texture
- Cultivars range in vigor
- Least resistant to disease and insects



Flame Seedless

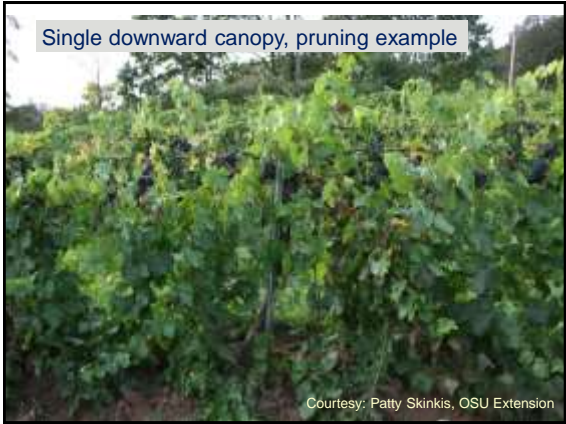
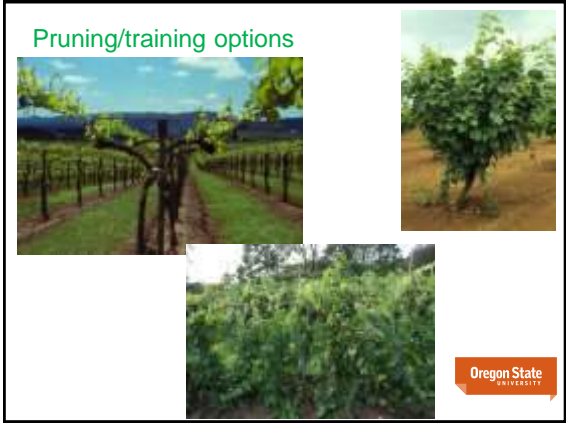
Hybrid types

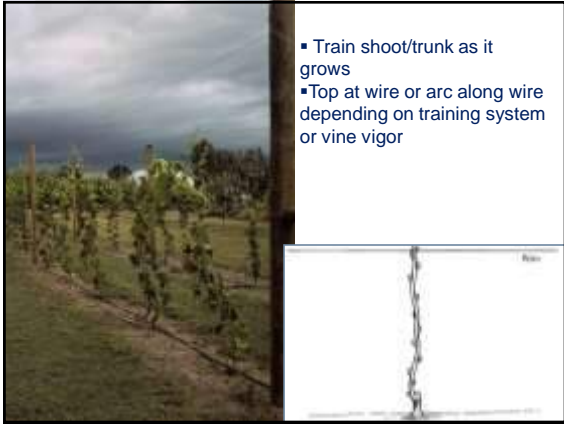
- Characteristics range, depending on cultivar



American types (*Vitis labrusca*) or hybrids







- Train shoot/trunk as it grows
- Top at wire or arc along wire depending on training system or vine vigor



After pruning in first winter
Trunk did not make the 6 ft wire

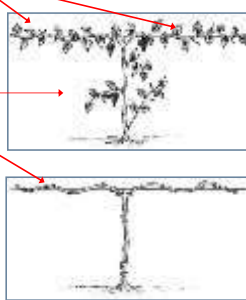




Before pruning in first winter

After pruning & tying

Establishing the vine "framework" (year 2)

- Pick shoots in proper locations
- Remove all un-wanted shoots
- When dormant, shorten each of the canes to limit fruit production






Concentrating growth (suckering)


Remove shoots along trunk, keeping ones in proper locations

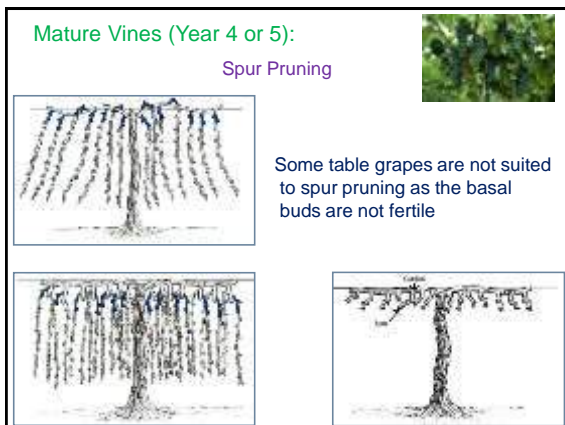
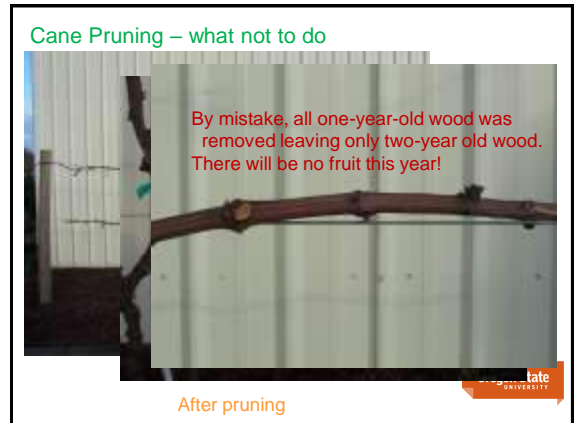
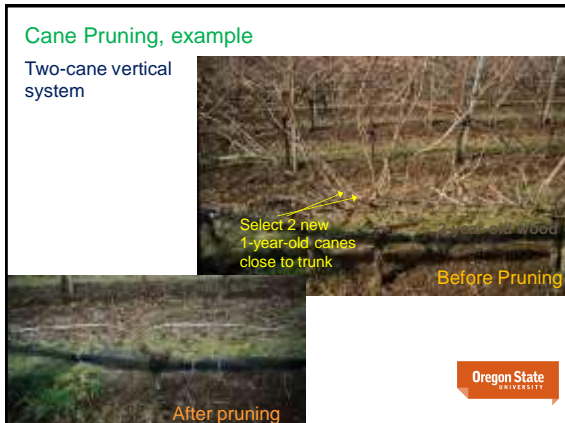
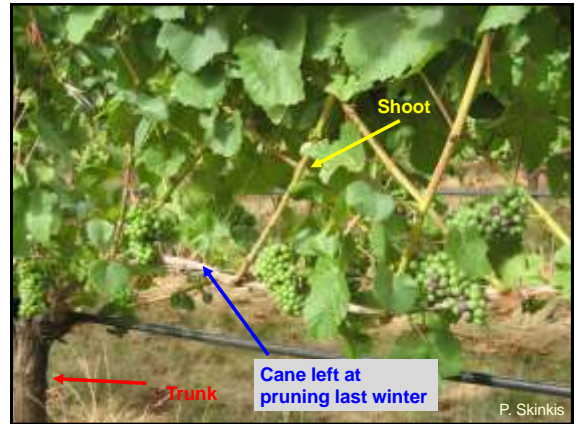
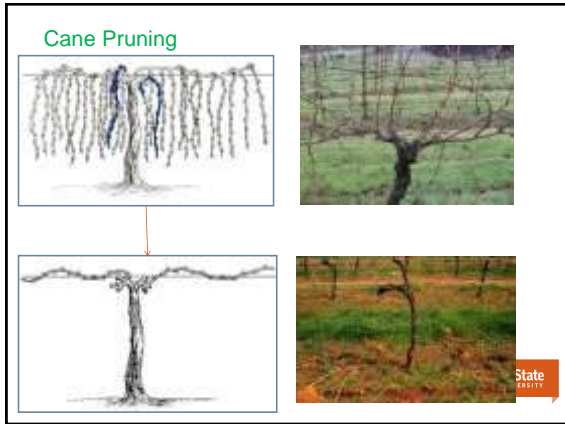



First cropping year (year 3 or 4)

Fruiting zone





Spur Pruning – what not to do

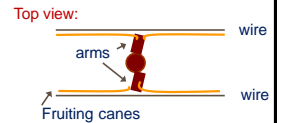


Training to an arbor

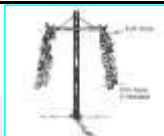


Geneva Double Curtain (GDC)

"T" trellis at 6-6.5' high with wire on each side of "T" and a center training wire



Geneva Double Curtain (GDC)



It is important to make the shoots hang down in 2 "curtains" and keep the center open for good light exposure

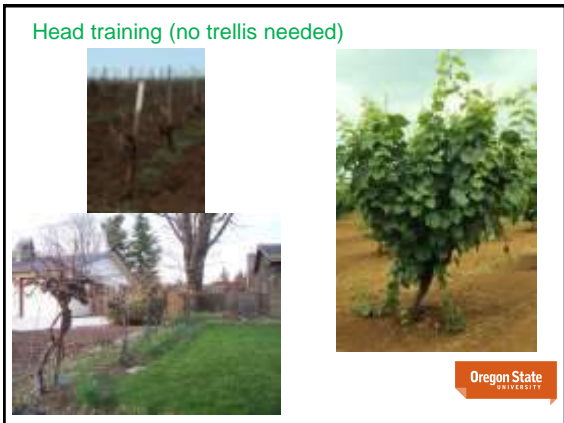
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Establishing a GDC

Before pruning

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Shoot thinning



Remove all but most fruitful shoot/node

Done in spring to bring crop down to target level and maintain a good canopy

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Suckering

Remove suckers at base & head of vine through season



Leaf removal:



Leaves removed in fruiting zone on east side of row just after fruit set to improve cluster exposure

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Leaf removal:



Proper stage of development for leaf removal

Harvest

- Is fruit mature?
- Grapes do not further ripen after harvest
- Taste the fruit
- Sweetness increases, acidity decreases and flavor improves to a point as grapes mature
- Improper cultivar or under-pruned vine may ripen fruit too late



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Do not over crop vines!

Vines that are not pruned hard enough will have poor fruit set, fruit color/quality and late fruit maturation

Poor set – seedless cultivar

Poor set – seeded cultivar



Good set



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Common problems

Powdery Mildew



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Fruit rot (Botrytis)

A wet weather disease



Disease can affect
leaves too

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Grape erineum mite



Top of leaf

Dormant oil & sulfur sprays
usually control this pest



Colonies of mites live in "blisters"

Bottom of leaf

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2,4-D herbicide damage



- Damage due to herbicide drift
- Do not spray any products containing 2,4-D near grapes. They are very sensitive
- Will reduce current season crop and may reduce next year's crop

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Birds

Netting is an effective
way to protect against
bird damage



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Bees

> Honey bees less
of problem than yellow jackets



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Sunburn of Clusters

Early sunburn



Usually caused by clusters suddenly becoming exposed to sun due to loss (or removal) of leaves during hot weather

Late sunburn



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A collage of six photographs showing different types of damage to grapevines. The images are arranged in a grid-like fashion with overlapping edges.

- Top left: **Healthy cambium** - shows a cross-section of a healthy grapevine stem.
- Top right: **Damaged cane** - shows a cane that is completely dead and brittle.
- Middle left: **Partial winter damage** - shows a cane with some dead sections.
- Middle right: **Winter cold injury Symptoms** - shows a cane with irregular, dark, necrotic patches.
- Bottom left: **Damaged compound bud** - shows a bud that is shriveled and dark.
- Bottom right: **Full winter damage** - shows a cane that is completely dead and broken.

European grapes most susceptible

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For European grapes in Eastern Oregon



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Resources:

- "Growing Table Grapes", by B. Strik, OSU Extension Service
- This and other OSU Extension publications at: <http://catalogue.extension.oregonstate.edu>

