

FOHC Table Grape Vineyard Management

Feb. 6, 2006

Dormant Season

- Prune in the mid to late dormant season to reduce Eutypa disease. On cane-pruned vines, tie canes to wires so winds don't blow them off later.
- Trellis repair. Pull wires taught with pliers or a special pulling tool (ask Bill H.). Tighten crossarm nuts. Straighten crossarms and posts if possible. Reattach drip tubing with spiral plastic holders (in bag on top shelf in middle cabinet).
- Spray lime sulfur at budswell (late Feb./early March). (**NOTE**: This is not on the sulfur label, but it's done on fruit trees and grape growers often do this.)

Spring/Early Summer

- Begin spraying sulfur when green tissues first appear, but only after temperatures reach 70F or more for 6 hours or more, 3 days in a row (can you monitor this?). Keep track of temperatures from then on. When temps. are consistently above 70F, spray weekly. When they dip down below 70F again, stretch the interval to 10-14 days, or more if it stays cool for a long time. Continue spraying weekly until temps. are generally over 95F (usually late June) and fruit begin to soften.
- Shoot thinning (spur-pruned vines). In late March/early April, when the shoots are about 6-8 in. long, go through each vine and break off shoots that are not from our two buds (called "count buds") on each spur. If shoots arise from closer to the cordon and they have fruit, cut off the spur beyond the 2 fruitful shoots at each spur position (trying to keep spurs/arms as close to the cordon as possible). Break off any shoots with no fruit unless the cane is needed in that location for a spur there. Where the arm is getting very long and there's a new shoot growing from the cordon but it has no fruit, consider leaving it but cut the spur back to one bud (one shoot) to avoid shoot crowding. Continue shoot thinning as necessary.
Shoot thinning (cane-pruned vines). In late March/early April, break off any unwanted shoots. Leave only one shoot per node on the canes. Determine which shoots from the spurs will be left for next year's replacement canes and remove most others. This is a little subjective; consider leaving a few more, but thin some out to prevent crowding.
- Thin clusters in mid to late April. Remove all but one cluster per shoot. The goal is to leave about 28 clusters (14 spurs, 2 shoots per spur, 1 cluster per shoot); if some shoots have no clusters, leave 2 clusters on some of the other shoots to get the 28 clusters. End vines will likely have fewer spurs and clusters because they have less room; however, the more fruit they have, the less vigorous the vine will

be. Also, clip off approx. the lower one-third of the cluster; the cut part usually has no branches but the part above does.

- Young vine training. Begin tying up the strongest shoot onto the stake and continue through the spring/early summer. When the shoot reaches several inches above the cordon wire, cut it off at the wire. Train one new shoot both ways along the wire and tie it as it grows. Continue training as needed through the season.
- Shoot management (spur-pruned vines). Ideally, all shoots will grow up and over the foliage wires. In late April through June, tuck or cut off downward-growing shoots. Look for shoots growing down the row and tuck them over the wire, under other shoots, or tie them to the wire (be careful; they break). Remove all excess shoots (shoot thinning should continue through spring).
Shoot management (cane-pruned vines). This is something we haven't done much because it's difficult. Sometime we might want to redo the trellis like that used for the spur-pruned vines, using the cordon wire to tie the canes to and the foliage wires to catch the shoots up & over. Remove any shoots that are fruitless, except replacement canes. Thin shoots through the summer.
- Trunk girdling (seedless varieties). In about late May, 10-14 days after full bloom, remove a strip of bark about 1/4" wide. Be sure you've gone all the way to the wood, and don't leave any bark. Girdle either one cordon or the trunk.
- Leaf removal (spur-pruned vines). In early June, when berries are pea-sized, remove leaves around clusters on the morning sun (east) side only.
Leaf removal (cane-pruned vines). Remove leaves around the clusters on these vines too. Don't worry about the morning sun side. Remove 3 or 4 leaves on each shoot. The clusters will become shaded within a few weeks.