Propagating grapes

About Propagation

Propagation is the process of joining a stem or bud of one plant on to the stem of another. Grafting in grapes is used when a rootstock is needed to reduce the effects of insects, nematodes or problem soils.

Keys to successful grafting

1. Start with disease free material
2. Ensure that the actively growing cambium layer of the bud is in contact with cambium layer of the rootstock

Rootstock

Use rootstock developed from cuttings produced in the Greenhouse or open field. You can use

1. Sticks – i.e., a plain stick put in the ground with the root side down
   (Note: to avoid confusion in managing cuttings for planting: Cut the root side square and angle the vine end of the cutting.) (See figure 1)
2. Rooted cuttings – Already has roots growing from it

Types of grafts.

Use non-emerged buds and graft in the spring or fall when sap is flowing.

- Bench graft – Insert bud into “V-shaped” cut at top of rootstock
- T Bud – insert bud under bark into vertical slit
- Chip bud – insert bud into an angled cut

Figure 1. Cut the canes for planting with the square cut at the rooting end.

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