



# Propagating grapes

**UC DAVIS**  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL  
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## 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

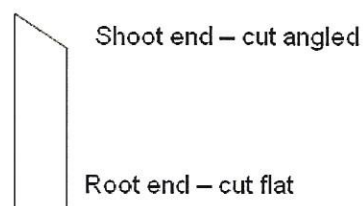
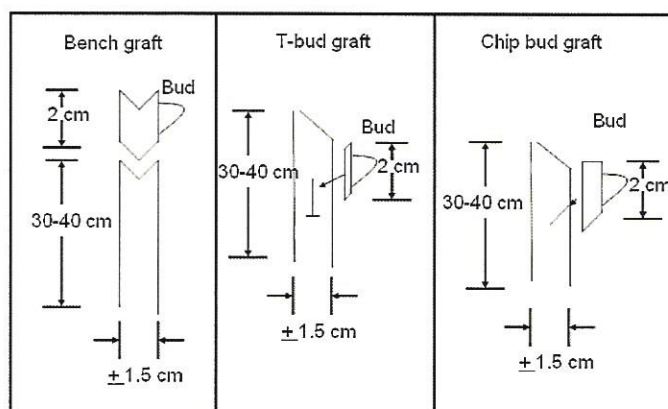


Figure 1. Cut the canes for planting with the square cut at the rooting end.

### 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



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