



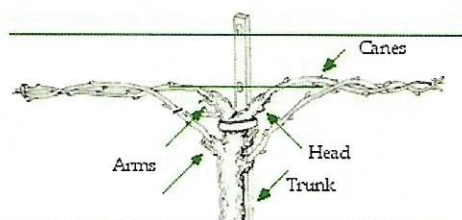
Shaping grapes

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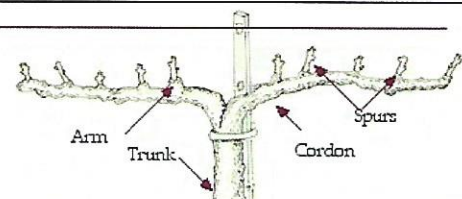
About shaping

Shaping grapes involves a range of vine and bunch practices including training, trellising, pruning and dropping fruit. The objectives of each are:

1. **Training and trellising** (e.g., vertical shoot positioning.) – shape the vine to give a desired crop structure to facilitate operations (e.g., easier access for management of fruit and vines) and to provide a desired outcome (e.g., increased sunlight penetration, reduced humidity).
2. **Pruning** – cut grape canes during dormancy to control crop quantity and so improve crop quality. Too much fruit may give small grapes and delay harvest.
3. **Dropping crop** – remove grapes or bunches to improve uniformity of fruit size and harvest date.



A head-trained vine with cane pruning

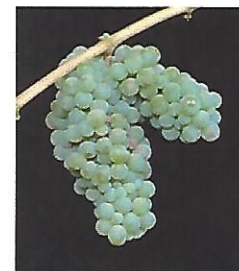


Bilateral cordon training with spur pruning (Pictures Statewide IPM Program, Agriculture and Natural Resources, University of California)

The when and whys of shaping?

Actual pruning, training and trellising depends on the variety, desired outcome (e.g., wine, raisins or table grapes) and/or growing conditions (e.g., humidity and sunlight). For example:

- **Variety:** The variety Thompson seedless can only produce fruit on terminal buds. Other varieties produce fruit from all over the canes. Thus, prune other varieties to encourage the spread of the crop over the whole vine.
- **Desired outcome:**
 - Table grapes and Raisins: In hot climate, train and prune to reduce sunburn on fruit.
 - Table grapes: Spray with Gibberellic acid or thin grape bunches by hand in late spring to drop crop and so improve uniformity of both fruit size and crop harvest.
 - Raisins: control crop by pruning to improve quality and to control harvest time.
 - Wine grapes: In some varieties, allow sunlight to fall on the grape bunches to increase variety characteristics
 - All grapes: Prune to control of crop size: Prune to remove buds and therefore control crop size. e.g.,
 - Table and wine grapes. Drop crop to avoid delays in harvest and decreases in quality.
- **Growing conditions:**
 - Prune and train to reduce humidity (and thus diseases around the vines and fruit) and to control (increase or decrease) sunlight penetration to the vine and fruit.
 - Leaf thin to allow air and sunlight penetration. Air penetration reduces disease buildup.



Prepared by Corky Lovin, Mark Bell, Louise Ferguson and Ali Almehdi, February 16 2007

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