

V I N E Y A R D P R O P A G A T I O N

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PROPAGATION METHODS

- Rooted Cuttings (own root)
- Potted Vines (own root)
- Bench Grafting
- Field Budding
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Field Budding

- The most popular method for joining scion and rootstock together
- Usually done in August and September by an experienced professional budder.

Selection of Rootstock

- Determine what root pests are present--phylloxera or nematodes.
- Select rootstock adapted to your soil type. (See U.C. Leaflet 2780, "Grape Rootstock Varieties," for details.)
- Purchase virus-free rootstocks and scion budwood. (Important)

Care of Rootstock

- In spring, plant strong, well developed rootings that are 16 to 18 inches long.
- Don't plant rootstock cuttings directly in the field. You can get a poor stand, poor growth, a failure.
- Plant stock with 3 or 4 inches of trunk above ground so bud can be placed above ground level at time of budding.
- Be sure rootstocks are disbudded before planting; remove all buds except top bud. (This should be done before you root the cuttings in the nursery.)
- After planting, cover entire plant with 3 or 4 inches of loose, moist soil. The reason for covering is to keep stock moist and easy to cut into at budding. Remove this soil mound at time of budding.

Budding Procedure

- Bud in August or September--as soon as mature buds of desired variety are available.
- Be sure stocks never dry out or cease active growth before budding. Irrigate regularly during growing season; apply an irrigation about a week before you bud.
- Hire a professional budder. Use the chip bud method of budding. Be sure he places bud above ground level. This will prevent scion roots from developing.
- Don't allow bud wood to dry out; keep bud sticks cool and moist in wet burlap.

- Immediately after vine is budded, mound moist soil over bud. Cover with about 2 inches of soil.
- Don't irrigate after budding.

Spring Care of Budded Vines

- When buds on rootstock begin to grow, then carefully remove the mound of soil to expose the scion bud.
- Examine the scion bud. If buds are turgid but not pushing, then cover with 1 inch of loose soil.
- Cut the cane growth of the rootstock back to the basal buds. (This will stimulate growth of scion bud.)
- When the scion bud starts to grow, cut the budding rubber and cut the stock back to about 1 inch above the scion bud. This removes all buds of the stock and confines future shoot growth to the scion bud. Make sure when you cut the stock off that the cut slants away from the scion bud.
- Place a paper sleeve (2 or 3 inches in diameter, about 9 inches long) over the end of the stock that encloses the scion bud. Set this sleeve into the ground 2 or 3 inches below the union. Hold sleeve in place by banking soil around the bottom 3 or 4 inches. This protective sleeve directs the developing green shoot upward to form the vertical trunk for the future vine. It protects new growth from pest damage and provides early frost protection.
- Tie the new shoot up the stake as it develops. If more than one shoot develops from the scion bud, select the strongest one and remove the others.
- Train the vine in conventional way.