

Fritz Westover | Viticulturist Virtual Viticulture Academy





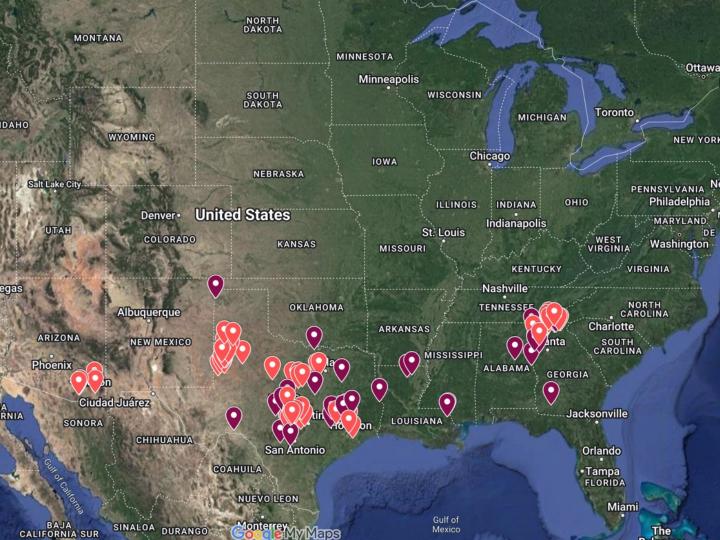














Factors Influencing Vineyard Longevity

- Vineyard establishment protocols (soil, water, nutrition)
- Environmental conditions (drought, heat, cold)
- Management (water, nutrition, training, pruning)
- Water (quality, availability, timing)
- Diseases (GTD)
- Vine balance (crop load x season)

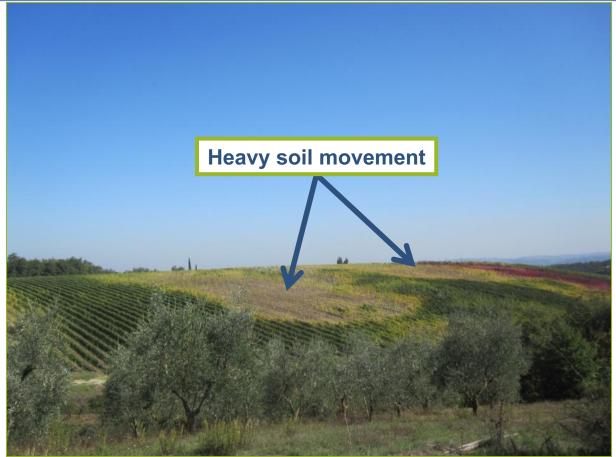






Vineyard longevity starts before you plant





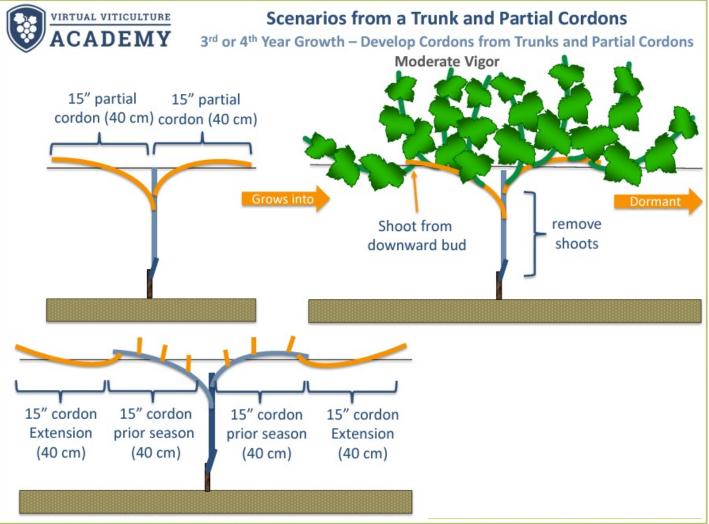


No Wimpy Wood!

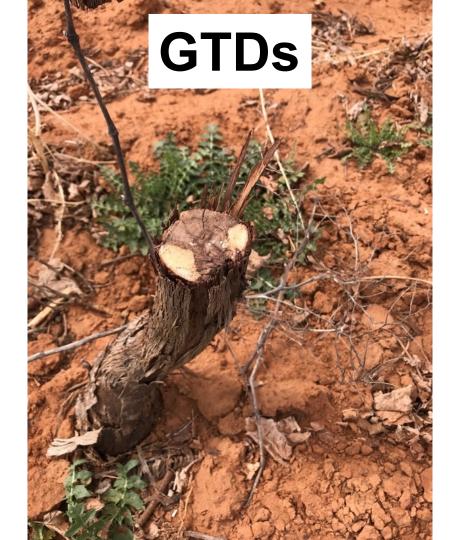


Out of Balance



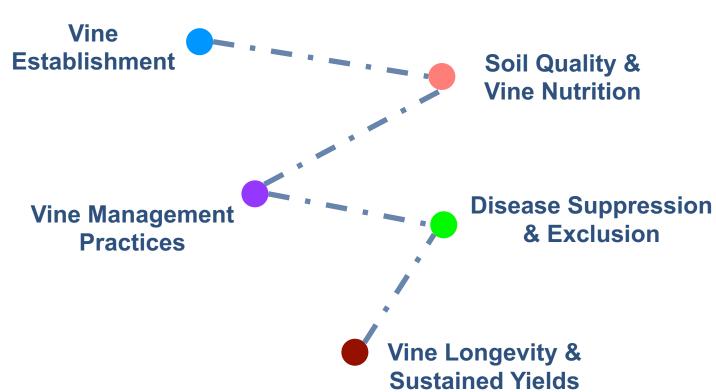








Pathway to Longevity





Young Vine Training:

A "Closed System" Approach

Remove Shoots = Reduce Dormant Pruning Wounds



Dormant first year vine

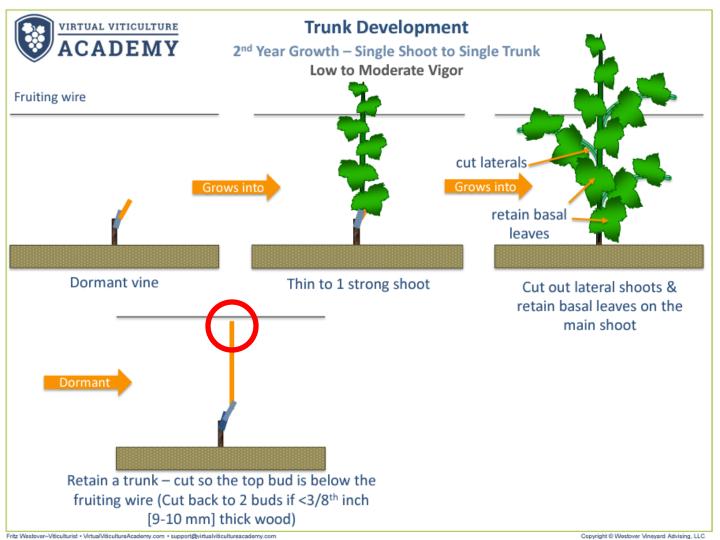
Thin to one strong shoot (or 2)

Prune back to two buds in winter (one bud if less than pencil size wood)



Young Vine Training & Pruning Wounds















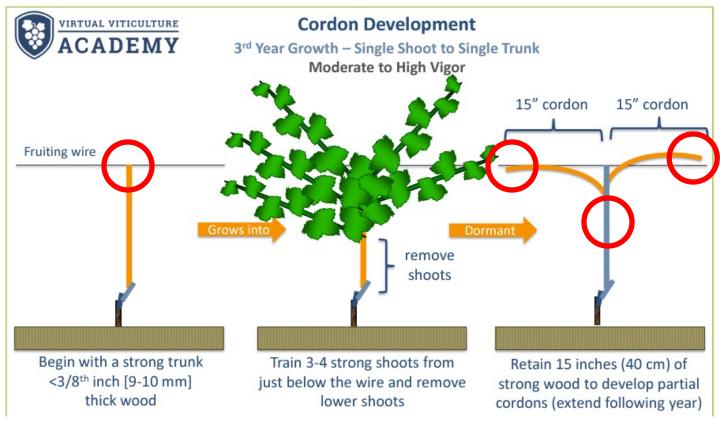










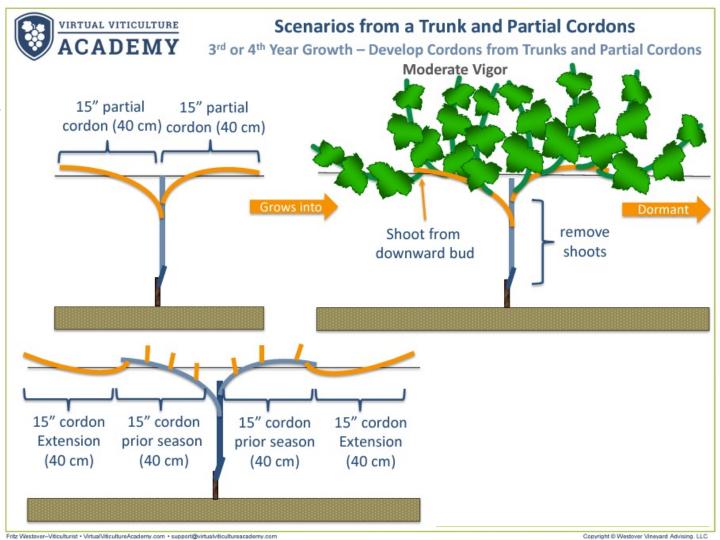




Canes longer than 15" can cause gaps









Spur spacing & pruning wounds











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Pruning Rules!

Pruning Established Vines for Longevity

Factors Influencing Vineyard Longevity

- Bad cuts or "Killer Cuts"
- How vines heal (CODIT)
- Reduce large pruning wounds & diseases
- Preventing "killer cuts" vs. protecting cuts
- Good cuts + strategic wound treatments
- Best management practices (fix bad habits)





GTD & Vine Decline



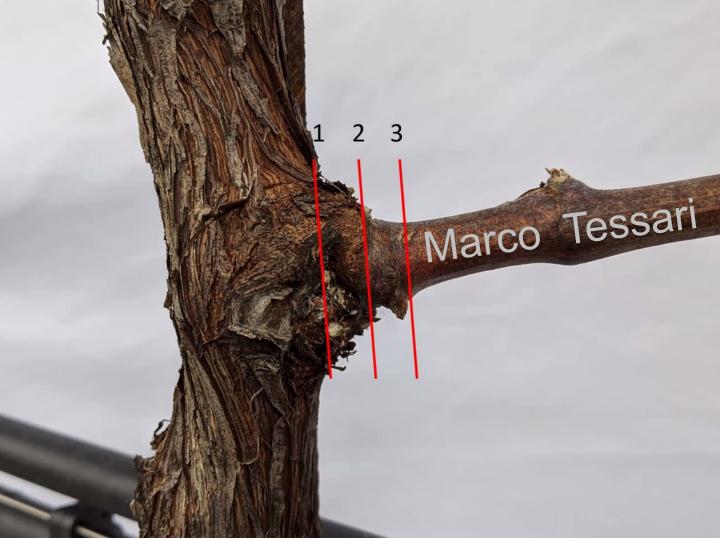
Is it the disease or the pruning?



















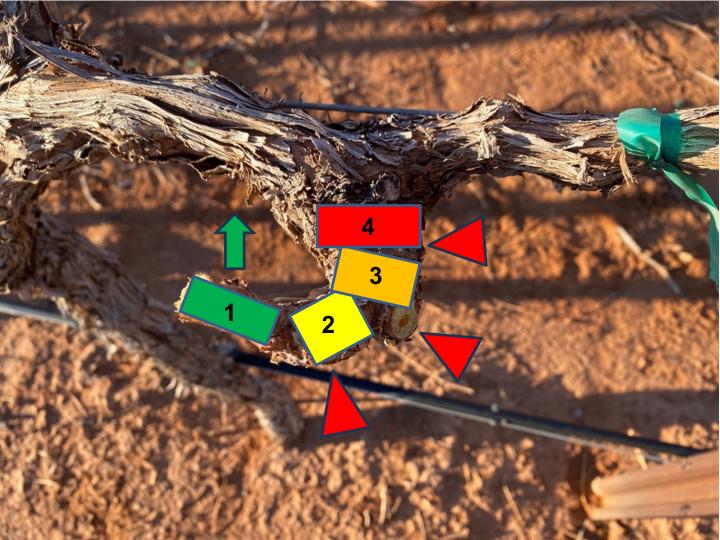


Phomopsis dieback Esca Slide Credit: Dr. K. Baumgartner

















Avoid cuts like this!

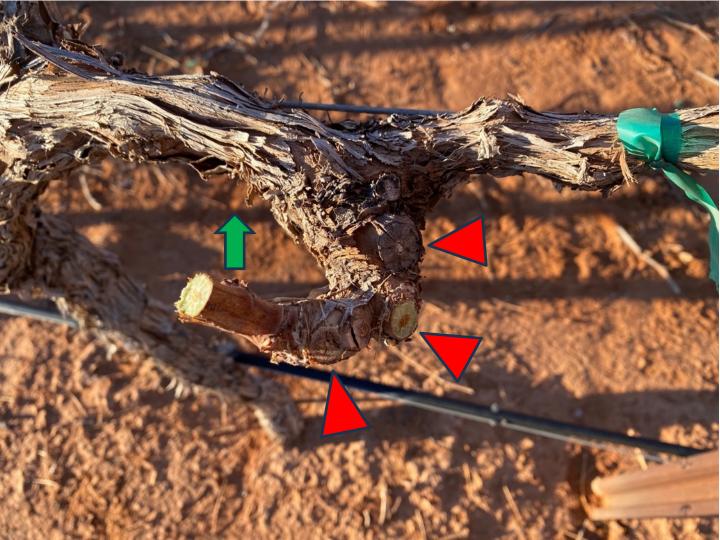














Every vineyard needs "some" shoot thinning





Shoot thinning

- Role in "closed system" vine training
- Adds labor then reduces hand pruning labor
- Reduces the number of dormant pruning wounds
- Removes basal buds compared to dormant pruning (less sucker shoots)





Double or Twin Shoots





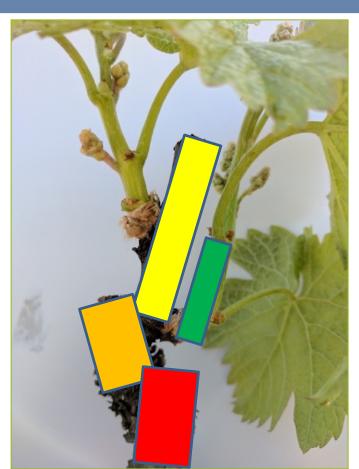














The Consequences of Late Thinning





Let your pruning be your guide!



Costly Vine Renewal











Where do we go from here?

- Worker training
- Vine dissection & education
- Stop the "Killer Cuts" (electric pruners)
- Rethink the spur creep dilemma
- Maximize live wood



These techniques are covered in the videos.



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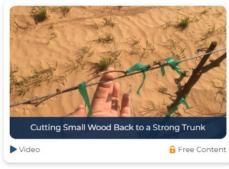
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Pruning

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Unearth what it takes to Be a Better Grape Grower.

Host Fritz Westover shares best practices for being a successful winegrape grower, offers practical tips for your vineyard, and answers questions from growers like you.







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