



VIRTUAL VITICULTURE
ACADEMY

Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics

VinCO, 2025

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Westover Vineyard Advising and Virtual Viticulture Academy



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The Goals

Strong live wood

Uniform growth

Sustainable production

Reduce wood diseases



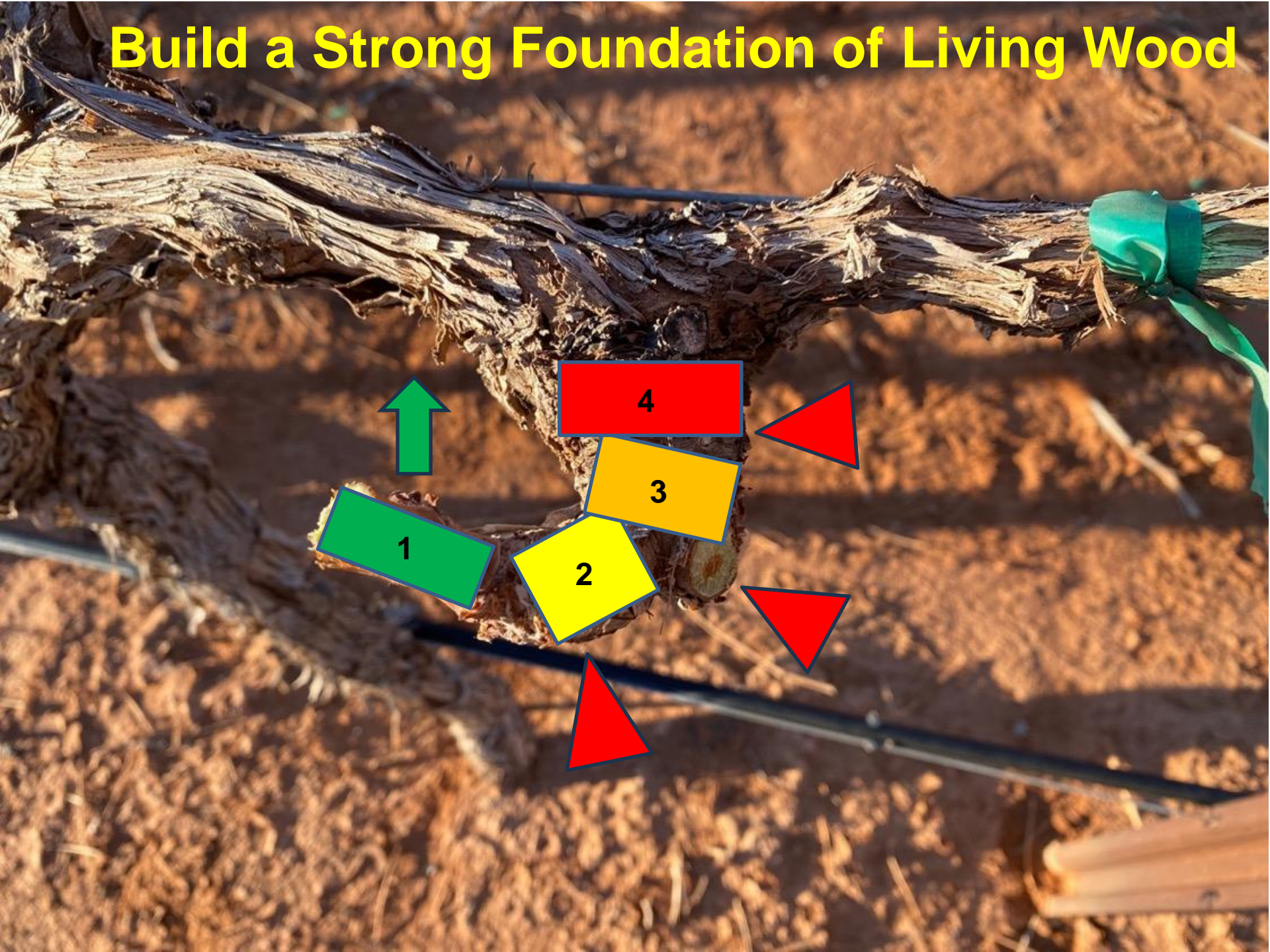
Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics

Applies to Both Spur and Cane Pruning





Build a Strong Foundation of Living Wood





Scenarios from a Trunk and Partial Cordons

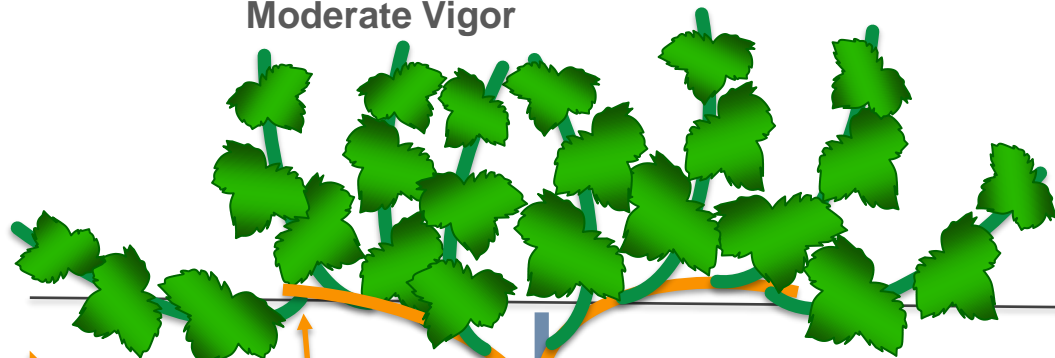
3rd or 4th Year Growth – Develop Cordons from Trunks and Partial Cordons

Moderate Vigor

15" partial
cordon (40 cm) 15" partial
cordon (40 cm)

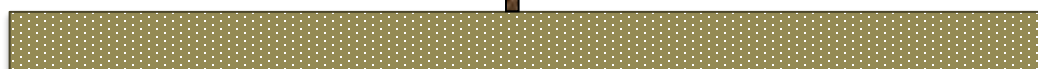


Grows into



Shoot from
downward bud

remove
shoots



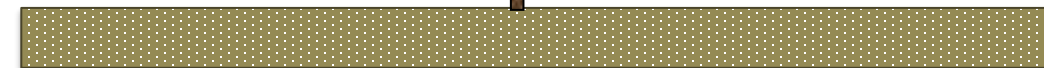
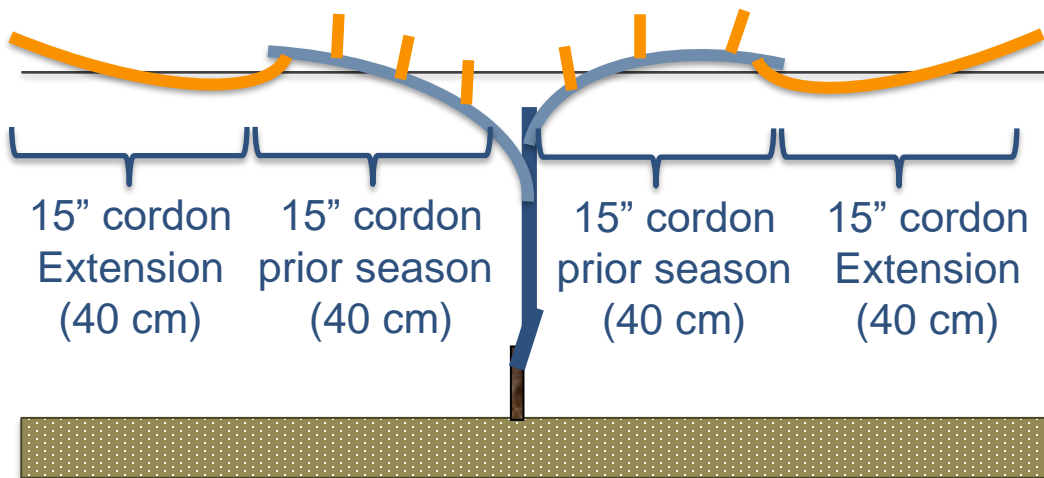
Dormant

15" cordon
Extension
(40 cm)

15" cordon
prior season
(40 cm)

15" cordon
prior season
(40 cm)

15" cordon
Extension
(40 cm)

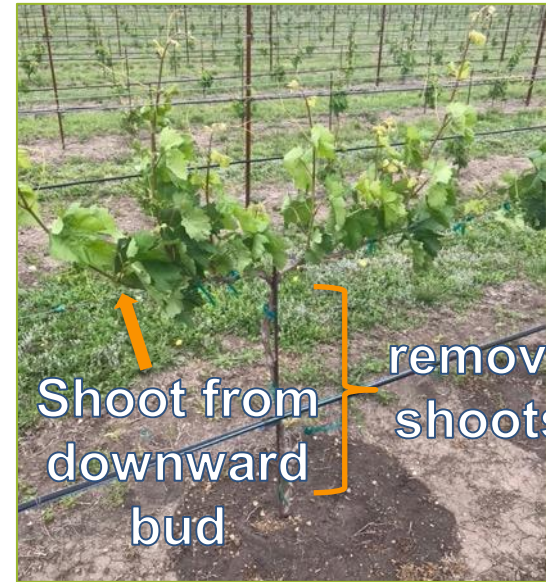


Cordons should be no longer than 15” or from “elbow to fist” in length



Scenarios from a Trunk & Partial Cordons

Develop Full Cordons – Second Phase





Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics

Canes longer than 15 in. (40 cm) can cause gaps





Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics

Canes longer than 15 in. (40 cm) can cause gaps





Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics

Remove all wimpy wood

Good canes but weak laterals



Remove this bud & weak lateral





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Cut out all wimpy wood – leave base bud

Lateral less than pencil diam.

Cut back to base bud





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Spur Development



No wimpy wood!



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Laterals not ideal for spurs





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**Clean prune new canes to push
base buds = stronger spurs**







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I'm serious about this one!





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Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics





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Wimpy wood wrapped around the wire





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Reduce weak spurs to 1 bud if needed





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Count bud vs. non-count bud









Marco Tessari



Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics

Cutting back to good wood

Extension weak – poor wood



**Cut out weak wood –
extend strong**













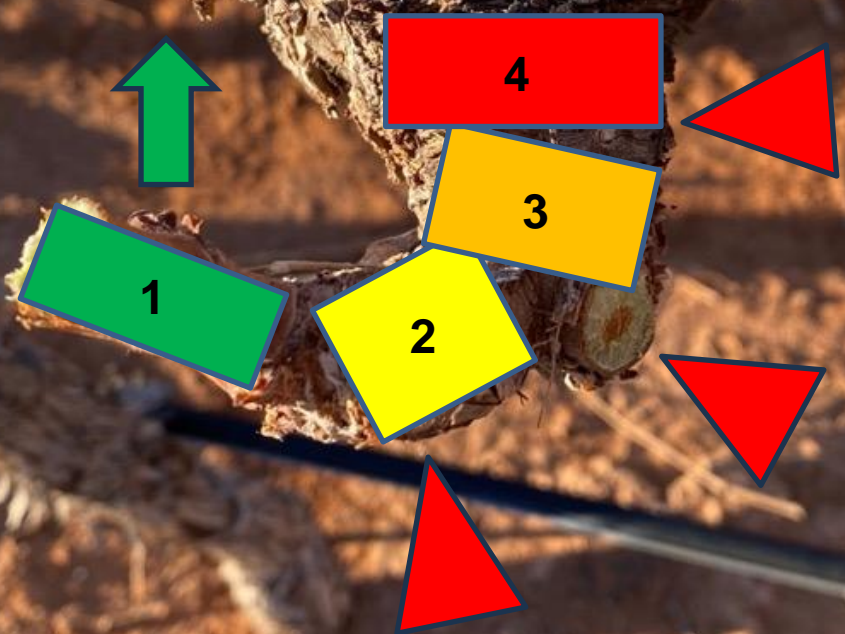
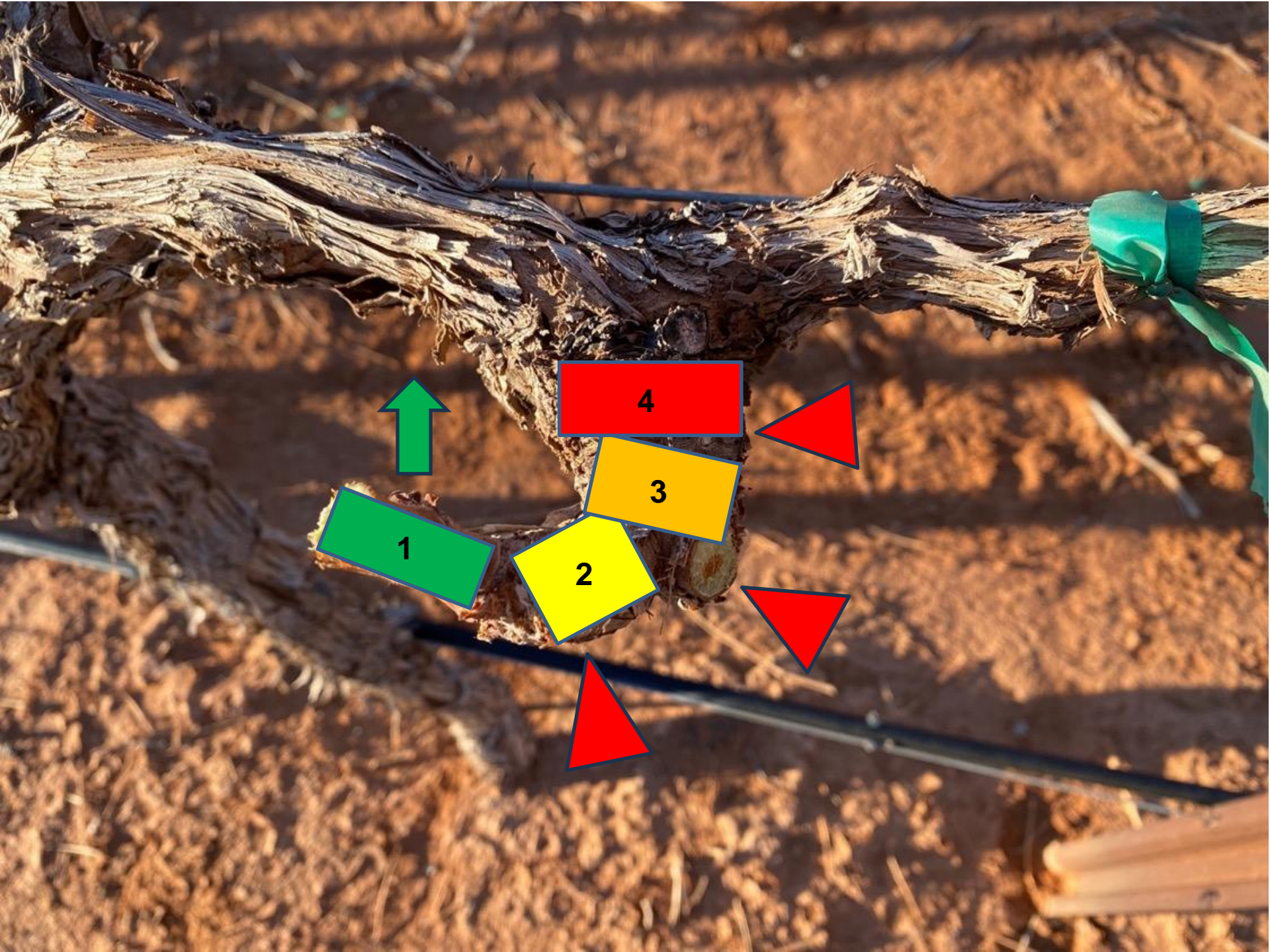






‘Spur Sandwich’







Marco Tessari



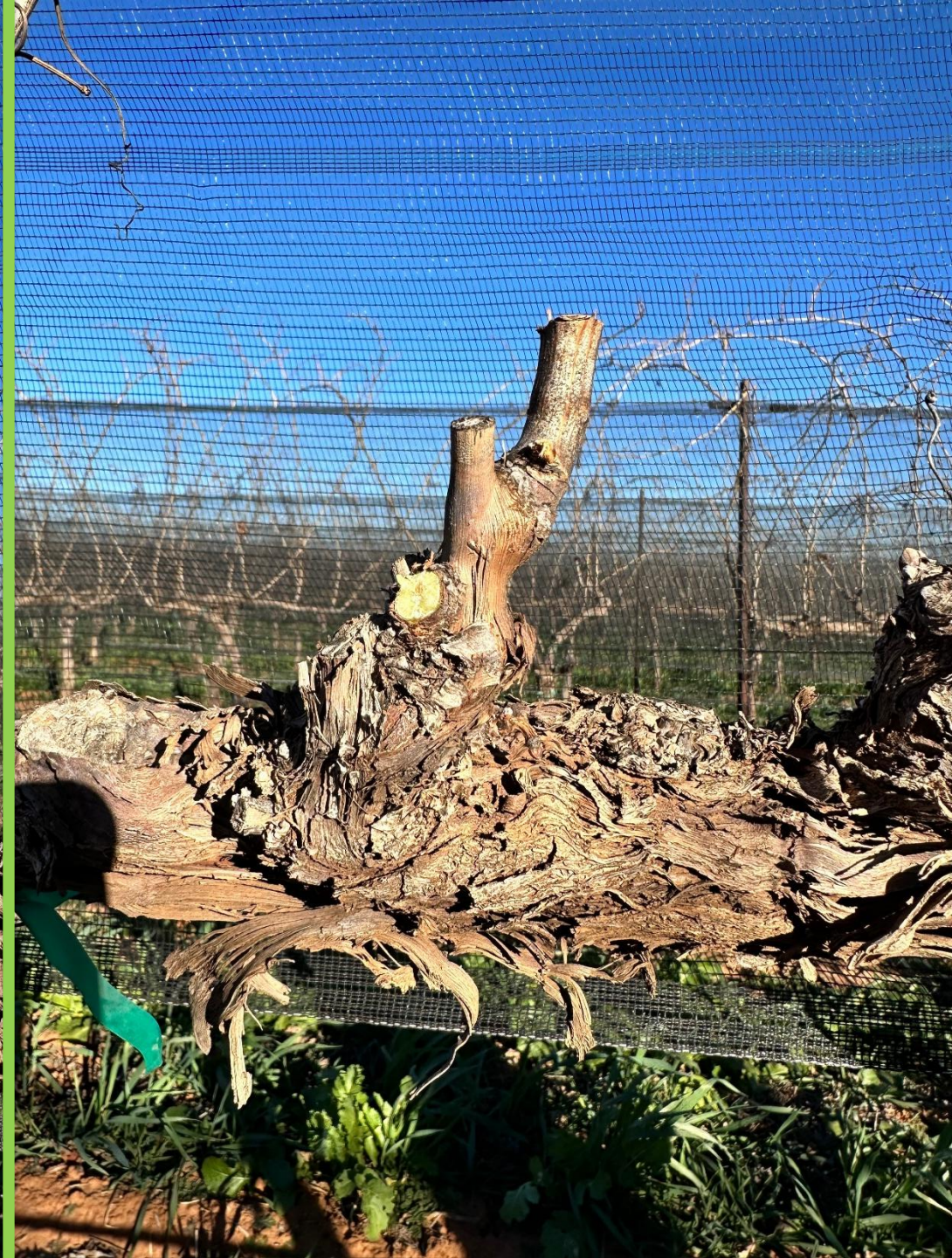
Marco Tessari



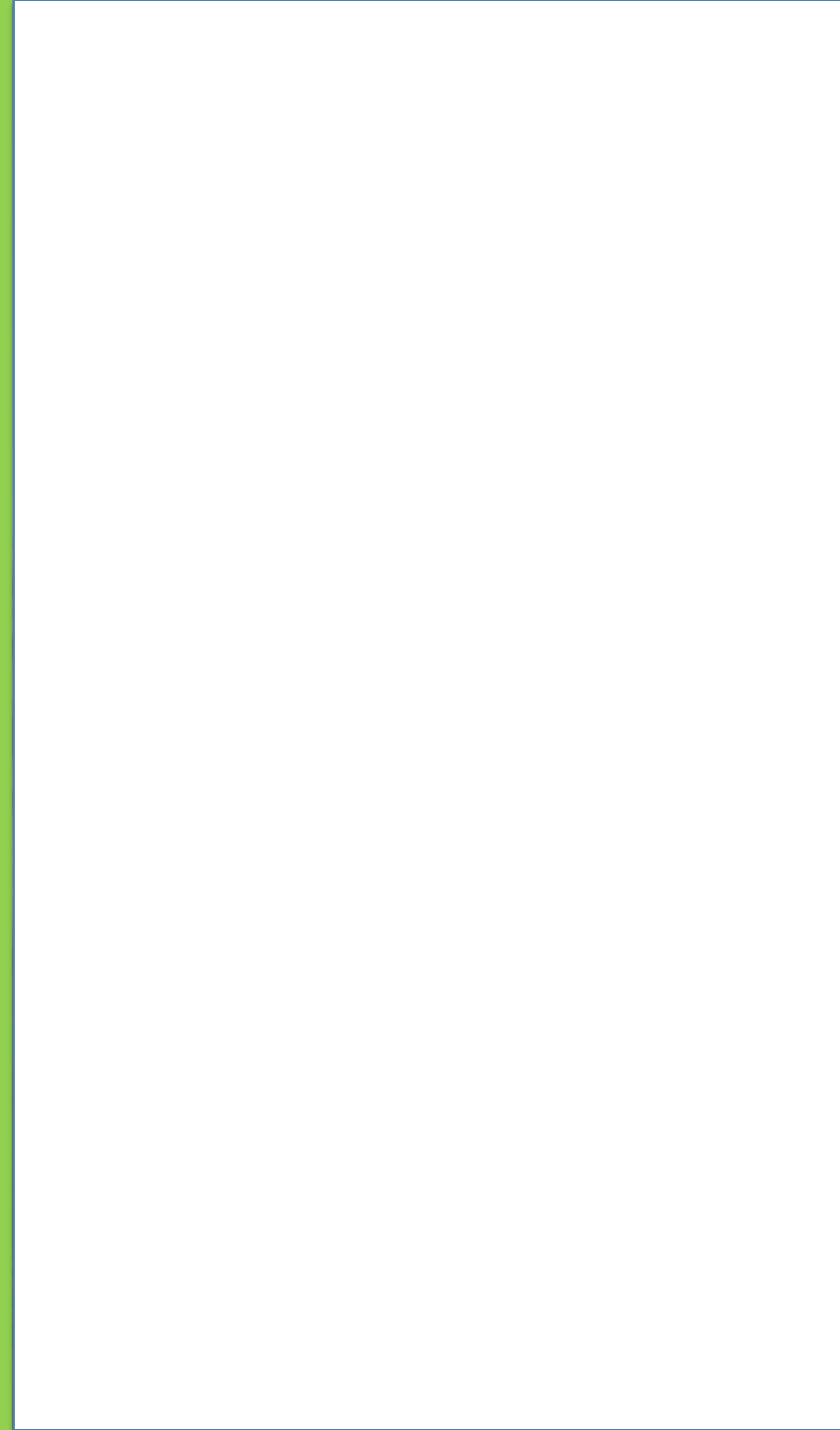














































Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics

GTD & Vine Decline



Is it the disease or the pruning?





























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Retrain with a Strong Foundation











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Pruning



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Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics


These techniques are covered in the videos





Grapevine Pruning & Vine Retraining Tactics

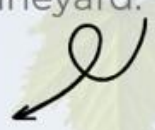


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Dealing with low yield/high vigor blocks





