

Grapevine pruning: some principles

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Pruning is a crucial cultural practice to control the yield per vine by controlling the number of latent buds (winter buds) that are left per vine or m².

While pruning some basic principles need to be considered for vine sustainability (figures A, B, C, D, E):

1. To avoid wood necrosis within trunks, arms and spurs (for Cordon pruning). This means to position the pruning wounds not too close to the conducting system-wood (phloem & xylem: we will call it “the wood” by simplification).

o The aims are to avoid the increase in % of necrotic-dead wood/tissues over years and to keep the conducting system operational

o Simultaneously the development of the crown buds should be encouraged, which will require some extra work by cleaning/removing in spring the growing shoots.

o This could avoid the development of diseases within the wood (Esca, Botryosphaeria dieback...; to be discussed).

2. To position the pruning wounds always on the same side of the arms-spurs.

o This allows the development of a healthy conducting system on the other side of the arms-spurs without necrotic tissues

3. For cane pruning: 1) forming a willow head (tête de saule) allows the trunk to maintain in the same vertical position (figure 1, B); b) to form lateral arms allows to respect the sap flows (figures 1, A, C, D)

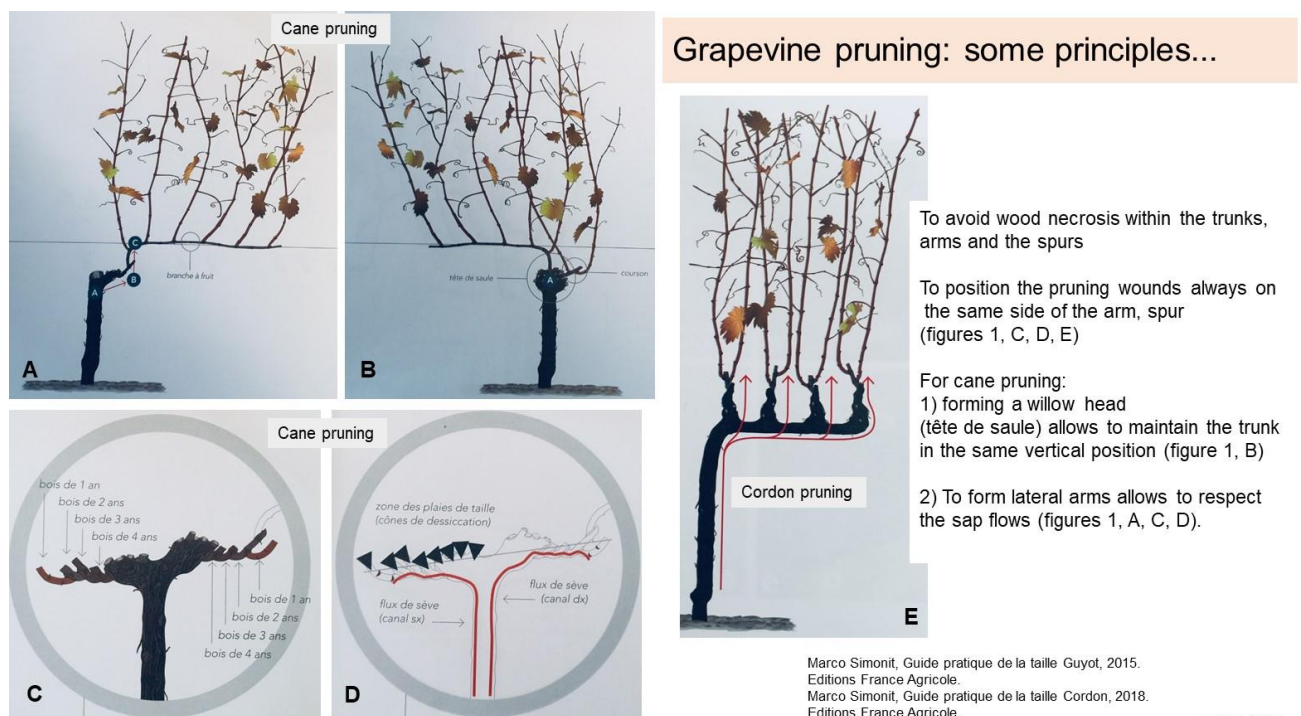


Figure 1, A, B, C, D, E: Some principles about grapevine pruning that apply for Cordon and cane pruning (Guyot) (from Marco Simonit, 2015 & 2018. Editions France Agricole; www.simonitesirch.fr).