

GRAPE PRUNING

CANE VS SPUR

You plant your grapevine and all you want is a simple crop of delicious summer fruit. Then someone complicates life by asking if you spur or cane prune. What does that mean? I guess it depends upon how passionate you are about highly productive vines as opposed to just letting it grow wild on your back fence. Both will provide fruit although structured pruning will produce more, larger, nice clusters with less disease and pest problems. Not pruning will create a jungle of overgrown wood on top of itself making it harder to pick clusters and the reduction of air flow will increase disease issues from moisture/humidity.

So why do you need to know the difference? Simply stated, commercial vineyard pruning where you cut back to a few buds each winter must take into consideration each variety's nature. Some varieties have good fruiting sprouts from the very last basal buds and some varieties fruit better from new shoots further out on the canes. The video mentioned below explains it well.

So here are some great links to get you up to speed:

If you like learning from video - here is a nice one from Oregon State University showing Spur vs. Cane pruned vines:

[OSU Video - Spur vs Cane Pruned Vines](#)

Here is a nice PowerPoint from UC Davis showing Cane vs Spur pruning and why you should consider it:

[UC Davis PowerPoint](#)

Another nice paper from University of California:

[University of California Guidelines for the Home Vineyard](#)

Oregon State University has an excellent, detailed, 32 page PDF on growing table grapes:

[OSU - Growing Table Grapes](#)



This Table lists the grapevines we currently grow and whether spur or cane pruning works best for each variety

Pruning (Spur / Cane): When both are listed, the first one is preferred

■ = SEEDLESS	ALL GRAPES ARE GROWN ON THEIR OWN ROOT	(Drought Tolerant)	RIPENS	SPUR / CANE
■ Autumn Royal (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Large	Purplish-Black	Sept.-Oct.	Spur
■ Autumn Seedless (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Pale green to golden	Aug.-Sept.	Cane
■ Black Emerald (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Black	July	Either
■ Black Monukka (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Black	Aug.-Sept.	Either
Black Spanish (LeNoir) (Vitis bourquiniana)	Small	Blue-black, vigorous	Aug.-Sept.	Cane
■ Blueberry™ Grape (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Purple-blue grape, hint of blueberry flavor	Mid Aug - Sept.	Either
Cabernet Sauvignon (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Purplish-black	Sept.-Oct.	Cane
■ Canadice (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera cross)	Medium	Red, Excellent, sweet flavor	Aug.	Cane / Spur
Catawba (Vitis labrusca vinifera cross)	Large	Coppery-red	Late Sept.	Cane
■ Champagne (Black Corinth) (Vitis vinifera)	Small	Dark red to black	Mid Aug.	Cane / Spur
Champanel (Vitis labrusca cross)	Large	Black, vigorous	Aug.-Sept.	Cane
Chardonnay (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	White	Aug.-Sept.	Cane
Concord, California (Isabella) (Vitis labrusca x)	Large	Oblong, blue-black	Sept.	Cane / Spur
Concord, Eastern (Vitis labrusca)	Medium	Blue-black	Aug.-Sept.	Cane / Spur
■ Concord, Eastern Seedless (Vitis labrusca)	Small	Blue-black	Aug.-Sept.	Cane
■ Crimson Seedless (Vitis vinifera cross)	Medium	Red, vigorous	Oct.	Cane
■ Delight (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Large	Dark greenish-yellow	Late July	Cane / Spur
■ Flame Seedless (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Red skin, firm flesh	Late July	Cane / Spur
Fredonia (Vitis labrusca)	Large	Black, vigorous. Similar to Concord but larger	Late Aug.	Spur
Golden Muscat (Vitis vinifera cross)	Large	Golden green	Aug.	Spur
■ Himrod (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera cross)	Medium	Pale green to yellow	Aug.-Sept.	Cane
Ladyfinger (Calmeria Selection) (Vitis vinifera)	Large	Elongated, white to green	Oct.	Either
Ladyfinger (Olivet Blanche Sel.) (Vitis vinifera)	Large	Elongated, white to green	Oct.	Either
■ Lakemont (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera cross)	Medium	Pale green to golden	Aug.-Sept.	Cane / Spur
Lomanto (Vitis labrusca vinifera cross)	Med-Large	Black, vigorous	Mid June	Cane
Merlot (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Bluish-black	Sept.-Oct.	Spur / Cane
■ Midgley's Purple (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Reddish-purple	Sept.	Either
Muscat (Alexandria) (Vitis vinifera)	Large	Dull green	Sept.	Spur
Niabell (Vitis labrusca)	Large	Round, blue-black	Aug.	Cane
Niagara (White Concord)(Vitis labrusca)	Large	Hardy, white	Aug.-Sept.	Cane / Spur
■ Perlette (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Amber green	Late July	Cane
Pinot Noir (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Purple-Black	Aug.-Sept.	Cane/Spur
■ Princess (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Large	Pale green to golden	Mid-Late Aug.	Cane
Redglobe (Vitis vinifera)	Extra Large	Dark ruby red	Sept.-Oct.	Short Cane
■ Ruby Seedless (King's Ruby) (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Crisp dark red skin, firm flesh	Aug.	Either
Sauvignon Blanc (Vitis vinifera)	Small	Greenish-yellow	Aug.-Sept.	Cane
Seibel #9110 (Verdelet) (Vitis vinifera)	Large	White, yellow fruited	Aug.-Sept.	Short Cane / Spur
Shiraz (Syrah) (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Reddish-black	Sept.-Oct.	Spur
■ Summer Muscat (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Green	Aug.	Spur / Cane
■ Summer Royal (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Black	Late Aug.	Cane
■ Thomcord (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera cross)	Medium	Blue-black	L. July - Aug.	Cane
■ Thompson Seedless (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Pale green to golden	Aug.-Sept.	Cane
■ Venus (Seedless) (Vitis vinifera cross)	Large	Blue-black, vigorous	Aug.	Cane / Spur
Zinfandel (Vitis vinifera)	Medium	Reddish-black	Aug.	Spur

If you want more information, just Google "Pruning Grapevines" and you will find lots of information.