

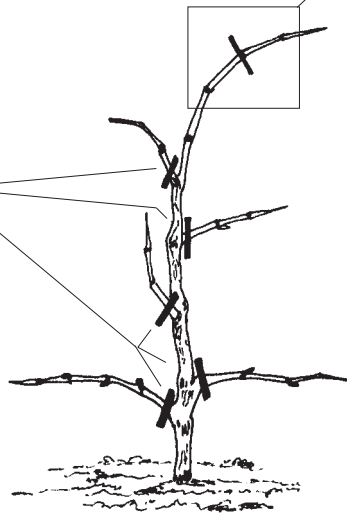
Dormant Pruning of Grape Vines

The following diagrams may help when pruning grape vines this winter. The vine may be at one of the stages shown in the following four diagrams. If there are any queries, please don't hesitate to contact the Horticultural Section of the Pitjantjatjara Council Land Management Services tel. 08-89505413..

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Pitjantjatjara Council
20th August 84

Diagram 1

Cut off all the side shoots from the main stem. Continue to remove all the green side shoots, except the top two, during the growing season, thus forcing the growth of the vine to trellis height.



If the main stem does not reach the top of the trellis in the first season, cut through the middle of the last reasonable sized bud.

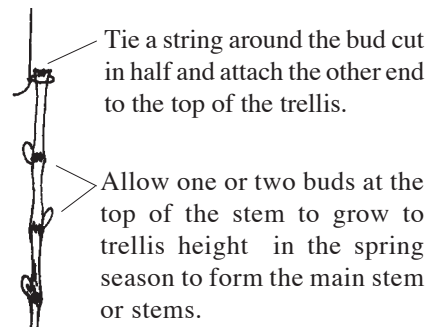
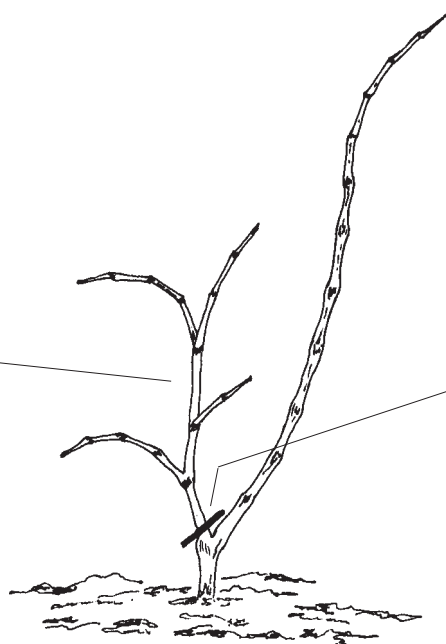


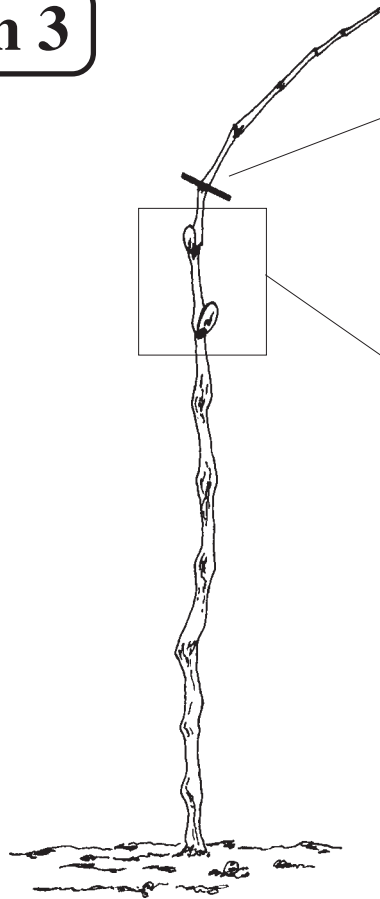
Diagram 2

This is the main stem of the vine, however a shoot may have emerged during the previous growing season producing a much stronger alternative.

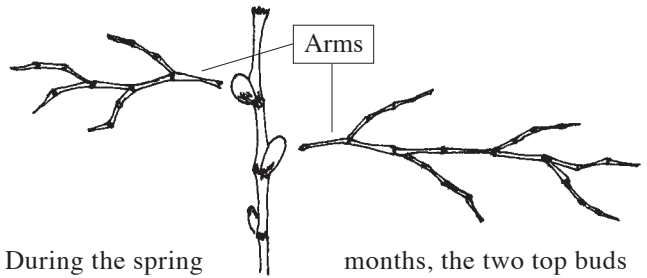


Cut and remove what was the main stem in favor of the new one. If the new stem is not long enough to reach the top of the trellis then follow dia. 1. It is possible that two or more alternate main stems may have grown in the previous season. Therefore you may wish to have several main stems leading to the top of the trellis.

Diagram 3

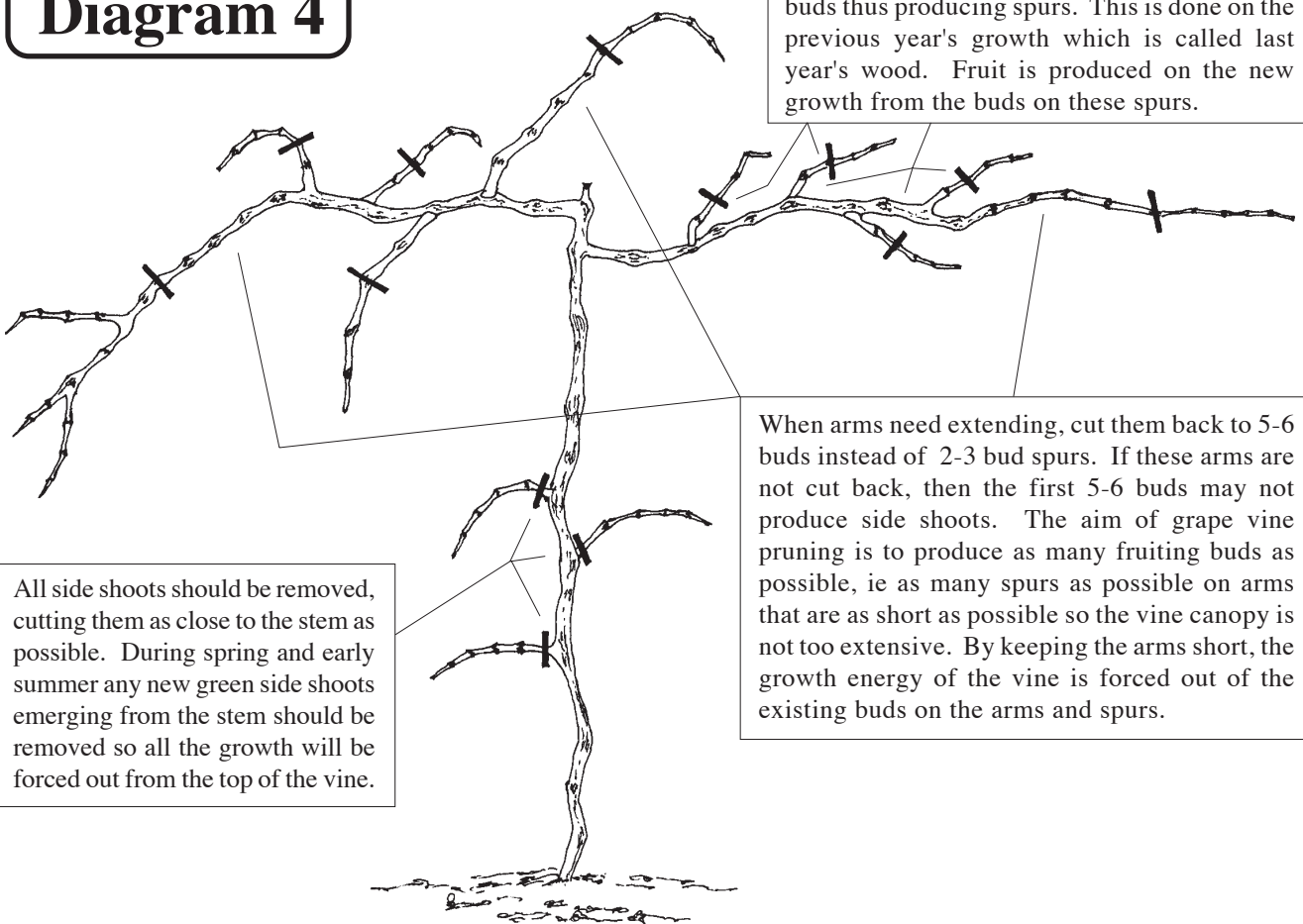


If the vine has reached trellis height during the previous growing season, the top bud is cut in half as in diagram 1 and a string is attached, joining the stem to the trellis. This can be done with a green stem during the growing season as well as when the vine is dormant.



During the spring months, the two top buds are allowed to grow producing arms and the vine spreads out over the trellis as in diagram 4. As the arms grow, they should be cut to a metre long, forcing the buds along them to send out side shoots. If the vine has only one stem to trellis height, let 4-5 buds produce arms to grow out on the trellis. If the vine has a number of stems to trellis height, let enough buds shoot to produce 4-6 arms to grow on the trellis.

Diagram 4



When dormant, cut the side shoots back to 2-3 buds thus producing spurs. This is done on the previous year's growth which is called last year's wood. Fruit is produced on the new growth from the buds on these spurs.

All side shoots should be removed, cutting them as close to the stem as possible. During spring and early summer any new green side shoots emerging from the stem should be removed so all the growth will be forced out from the top of the vine.

When arms need extending, cut them back to 5-6 buds instead of 2-3 bud spurs. If these arms are not cut back, then the first 5-6 buds may not produce side shoots. The aim of grape vine pruning is to produce as many fruiting buds as possible, ie as many spurs as possible on arms that are as short as possible so the vine canopy is not too extensive. By keeping the arms short, the growth energy of the vine is forced out of the existing buds on the arms and spurs.