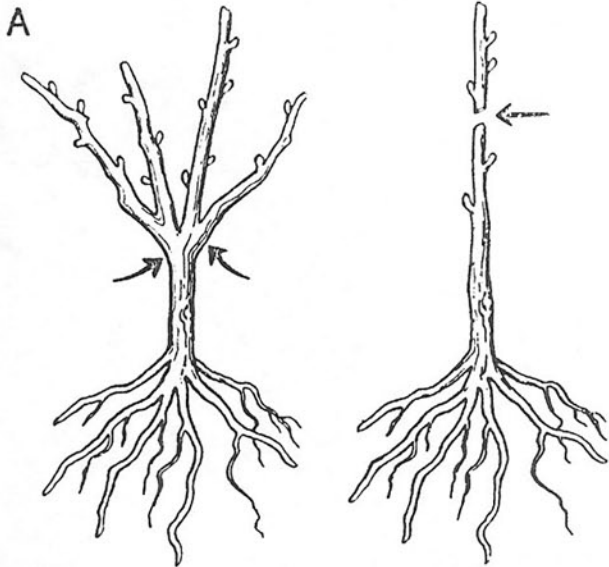


Harper's Says...

Growing Grapes at Home

PRUNING GRAPES

Pruning a newly planted vine is a drastic procedure, but extremely important for developing a strong main trunk. A vigorous plant will have more than one cane, so choose the largest and prune off all others closely. Prune the remaining cane back to two buds. These will produce the cane which will be the main trunk. (A)

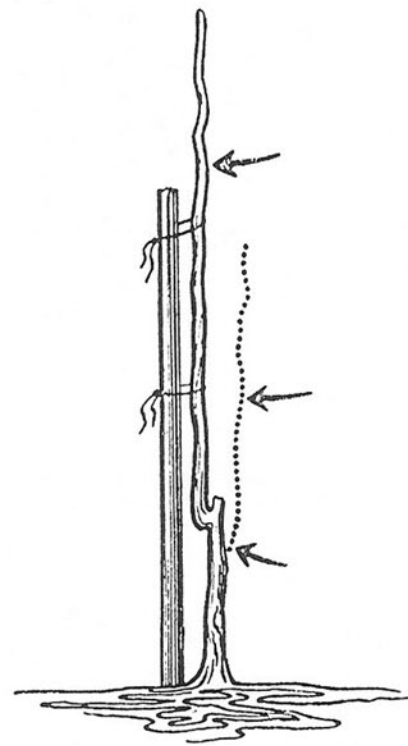


TRAINING DURING THE FIRST GROWING SEASON

After pruning, drive a wooden stake next to the plant to support the growth which

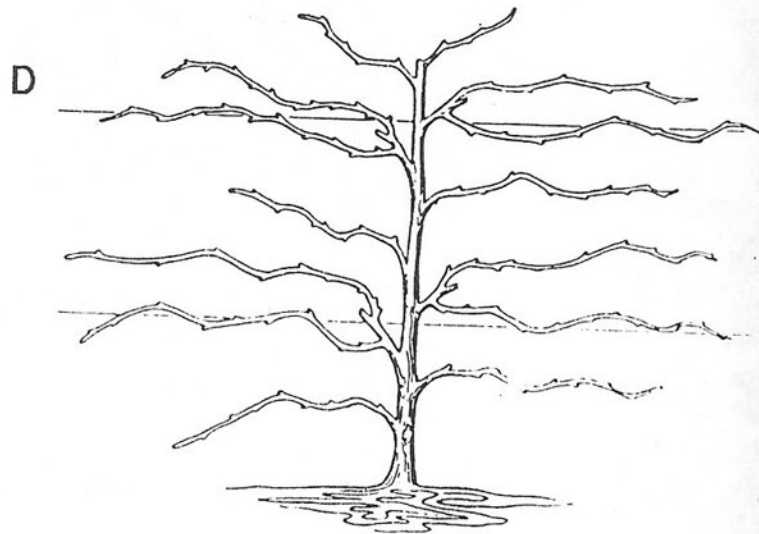
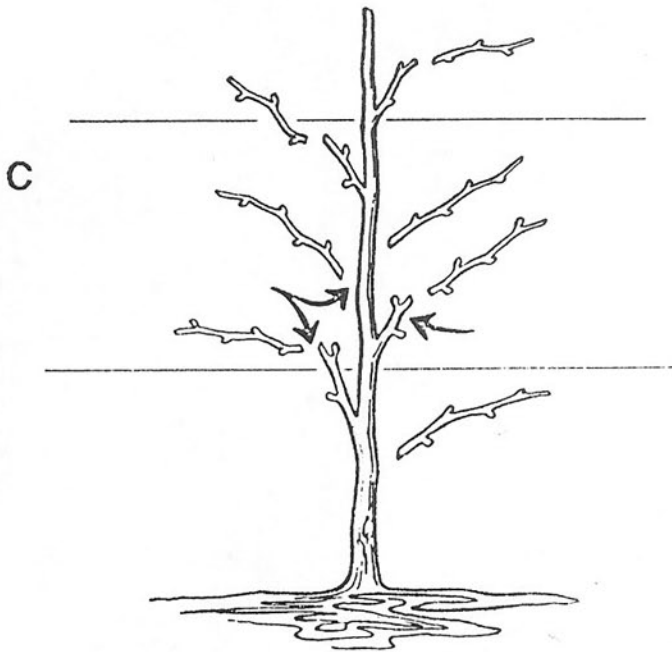
will emerge in the spring. Leave the stake in until the main trunk can stand without support. The two buds will develop into canes which remain until late in the season. Tie newly emerging canes to the stake. Then select the most vigorous one and prune off the other closely. Let the one cane reach 4 1/2 to 5 feet, then cut back to 40 or 50 inches. This pruning should cause branching below the cut area. (B)

B



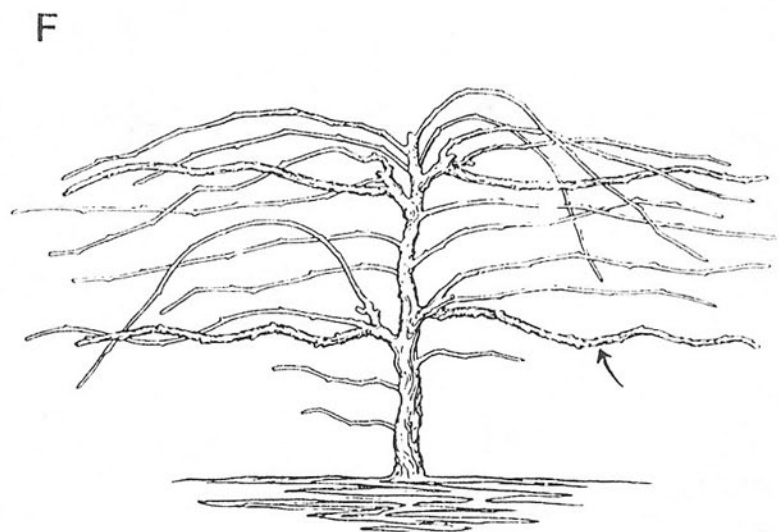
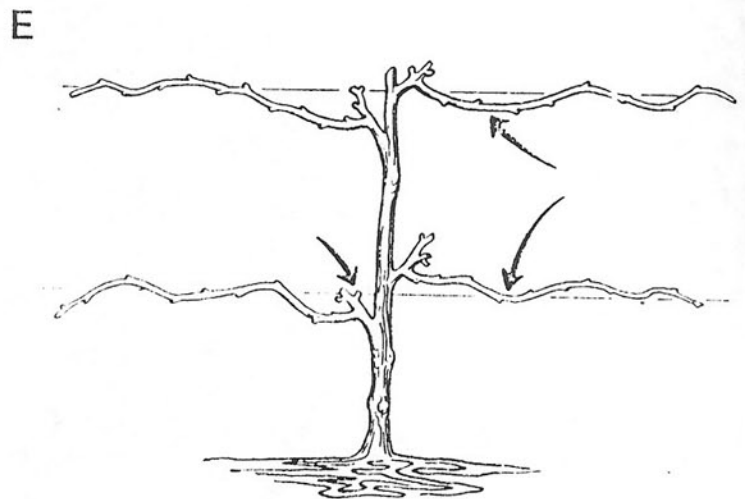
PRUNING DURING THE FIRST DORMANT PERIOD

Once the newly planted vine has grown through one season and all its leaves have fallen, it's ready for pruning. If the vine produced lateral canes, select four near the top of the main trunk and remove all others. The four remaining should be cut back to two buds. These will develop into the fruiting canes. (C)



PRUNING DURING THE SECOND AND LATER DORMANT PERIODS

Along with many others, the four stubs containing two buds each will develop into canes during the growing season. Allow all of the growth to remain during the summer, but when winter comes: 1) Select two vigorous canes near the top of the trunk and two farther down. Next to each of these, choose another cane and cut it back to two buds (renewal spurs) 2) After selecting four canes and the renewal spurs, cut off all others closely. 3) Each of the four then should have from 8 to 15 buds, depending on the vigor and age of the plants. (D,E,F)



Reprinted from the Department of Plant Sciences, College of Agriculture, The University of Arizona, Tucson.