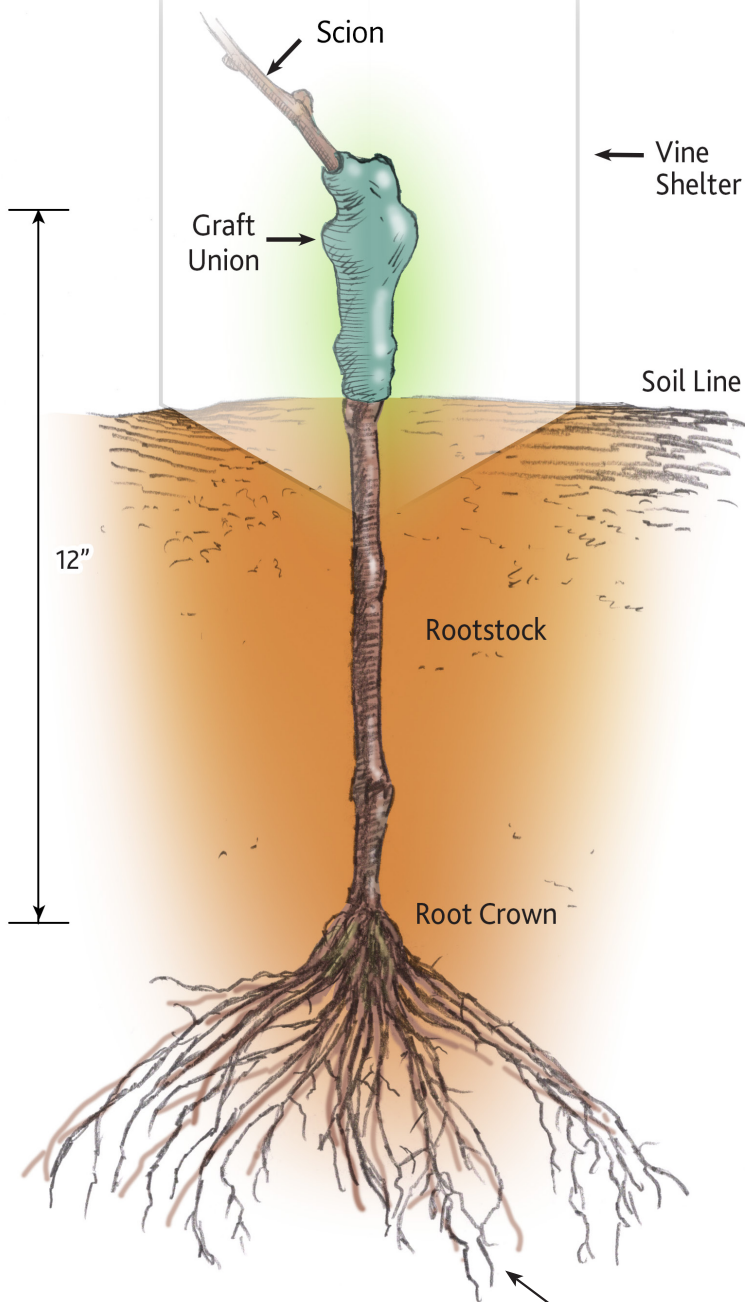
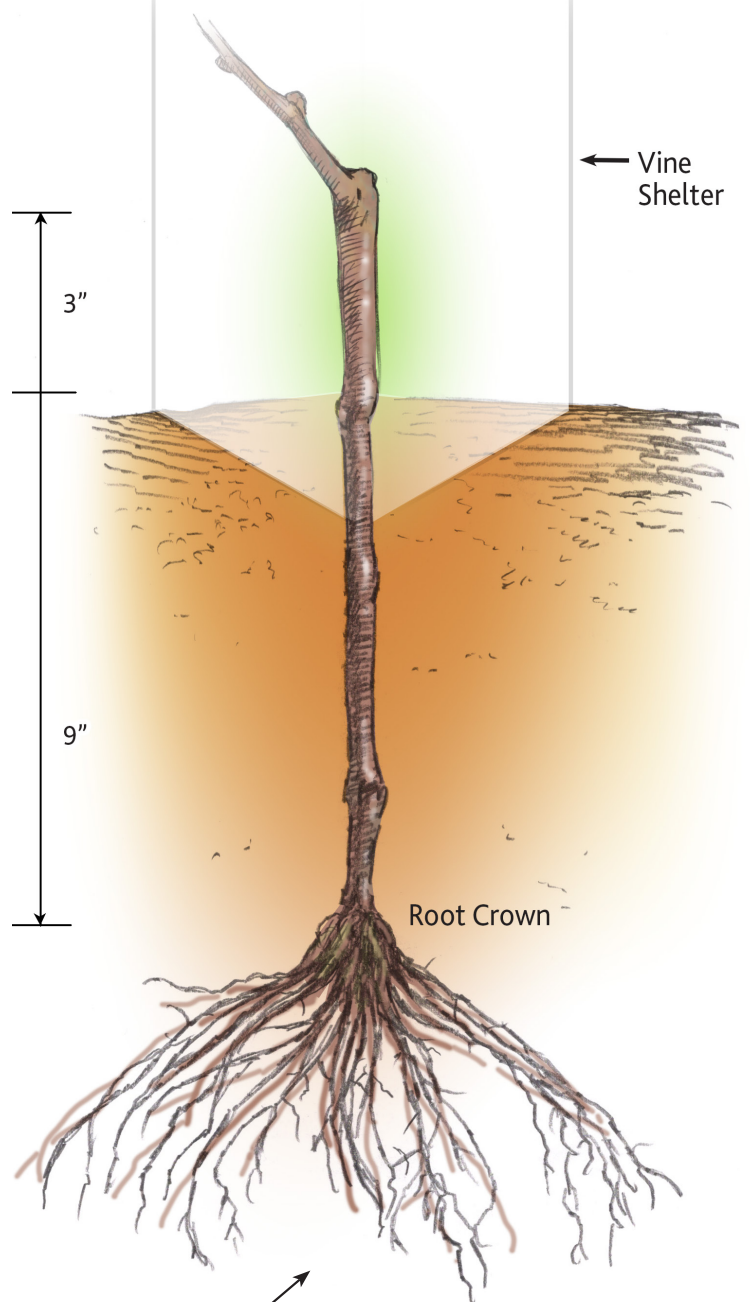


PLANTING INSTRUCTIONS FIELD GROWN DORMANT (FGD) VINES

GRAFTED VINE



SELF-ROOTED VINE



Spread roots evenly

PLANTING GUIDELINES

FIELD GROWN DORMANT VINES (FGDs) AND DORMANT POTS (DPs)

Dormant vines should be planted between late March and late April to ensure the best results. However, planting in May and into early June can also be successful. Dormant vines are sorted in bundles of 25 and are packed with moist pine shavings.

1. Upon **receiving your vines**, open the container immediately and inspect the vines. If packing material is dry, spray down lightly with water. Vines should be kept moist and stored in a cool location (above freezing) until planting, ideally at temperatures below 50 degrees F to avoid bud push in the box. The top growth and roots have already been trimmed during the grading process. The vines can be planted as-is, no further trimming is necessary.
2. Vines must have **adequate soil moisture** at the time of planting. If the soil is moist, irrigating prior to planting is not necessary. If soil is dry, pre-irrigate a few days prior to planting.
3. **Dig planting holes** at least one foot deep and at least the width of the trimmed roots. You may slightly mound the bottom of the planting hole with some soil, so the roots can be positioned in a downward position when planting.
4. **Place the vine in the hole**, spreading the roots evenly over the mound on the bottom. Make sure the roots are positioned in a slightly downward position (avoid J-rooting).
5. **Backfill the hole** with the original soil, free of herbicide residue, until roots are covered. Check to make sure the vine is at proper height and adjust if necessary. For grafted vines the graft union should be 3-4" above the soil line. For self-rooted vines the lower buds (nodes) should be about 1-2" above the soil line. Firm the soil around the roots to remove air pockets in the root zone. Fill the remainder of the hole and firm the soil again around the trunk.
6. It is recommended to place an Inland Desert **vine shelter** over the plant at this time. The bottom 1-2" of the vine shelter can be buried in the soil to help secure it in place.
7. **Irrigate** soon after planting. This will help settle the soil around the roots and remove any air pockets. After the initial irrigation, irrigate as needed. Irrigation should be scheduled to keep the soil moderately moist (not wet) to a depth slightly below the root zone, allowing the soil to drain between applications.
8. **Do not fertilize** until growth has started. In some cases, little or no fertilization may be necessary in the first year. If used, fertilizer

should only be applied early in the season to avoid excessive late season growth that would increase the potential for winter injury. Fertilizer applications should always be made according to soil sample data, and amending soil mineral levels to an adequate range should always be done using frequent applications of low fertilizer rates.

9. Growth should be **trained** up a stake to eventually meet the cordon wire as it emerges from the vine shelter. Selection of your trunk(s) and cordons is usually made during the dormant season following the growing season. Choose moderately vigorous canes to train. Avoid training large diameter "bull canes" as they are not as cold hardy as moderate sized canes.
10. If farming in a cool-climate region where hard frosts and winter freezes are likely to occur, it is important to **prepare the vines for winter**.
 - a. Start limiting vine growth in early August by backing off on the amount of irrigation. Limit irrigation to induce mild to moderate water stress. This is crucial to promote the development of lignin (brown woody tissue) in order to prevent serious fall frost damage.
 - b. Vine shelter removal is recommended once summer temperatures begin to cool and day length shortens (early September). This step will assist the vines' acclimation and readiness for the first frost events.
 - c. As the growing season is coming to an end, and prior to the first frost event, It is also recommended to "hill up" or mound soil around the base of the vine for additional protection from the cold. This is especially important with grafted vines during the first few years of establishment. The goal is for the graft union and at least two buds of the scion to be completely covered by soil. The hill/mound of soil will need to be removed around the base of the vine the following spring before the vines break dormancy. If soil is left in contact with the graft union, jump rooting of the scion is likely to happen, defeating the purpose of growing grafted vines on a rootstock which has desirable characteristics.
 - d. A long irrigation set at the end of the season to saturate the soil profile will also help prevent the young vines from desiccating during winter.