

VINE PRUNING

Due to the frost on April 21 and 22 in 1932, considerable damage was done to the new shoots in the vineyards of Merced county. In order to determine the proper treatment of these frosted vines, Professor A. J. Winkler and the local Agricultural Extension Service laid out 5 demonstration plots, where the Thompson frosted vines were treated in the following different ways:

1. Removed all frosted shoots
2. Removed frozen shoots, and cut back canes, leaving 4 or 5 dormant buds.
3. Cut back canes, leaving 4 or 5 dormant buds, and leaving frosted shoots on.
4. Removed frosted shoots and cut back the cane to the first dormant bud.
5. Leaving frosted shoots as found following the frost.

During the year the development of the vines and the fruit was checked on each of the demonstration plots. During the winter, after the leaves had fallen, the vines were pruned and the comparative time required in pruning the various vines was noted. It was found that there was considerable time saved in pruning the vines where the shoots had been removed, and the canes cut back to 4 or 5 dormant buds.

The general practice of pruning vines is well understood by the growers and requires little attention.

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Agricultural Extension Service, Merced