

Kiwifruit Winter Pruning – Day 3 of 5



NZKGI
NEW ZEALAND KIWIFRUIT GROWERS

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



Aim of the day

- To understand the kiwifruit vines response to pruning cuts
- To be confident in maintaining pruning tools

Topics

- Revise aim of winter pruning
- Kiwifruit vine response to pruning cuts
- Maintaining pruning tools
- Practical Demonstration – opportunity to prune vines that are due to be removed

Aims of Pruning

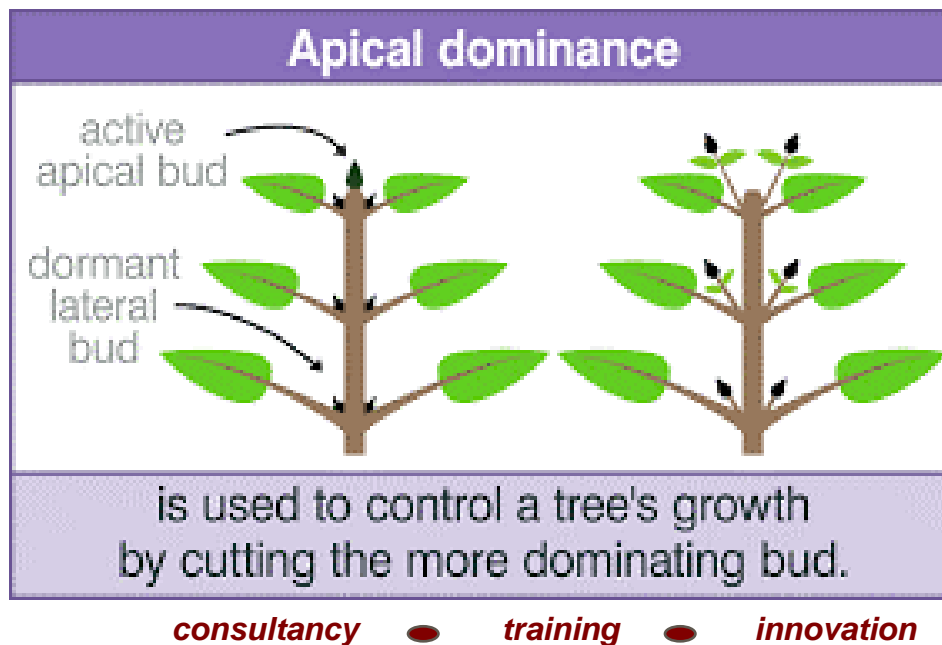
- Aim is to get the right number of high-quality one-year-old buds, evenly spaced and tied down across the canopy whilst also
 - Renewing fruiting wood
 - Preventing shading and overcrowding
 - Removing diseased and broken wood
 - Maintaining vine form and size
 - Maintaining plant health

Plants response to pruning

- Pruning removes old, established wood and stimulates new shoot growth immediately below the cut
- Flat downward growth is the most fruitful
- Upright growth tends to be strong growing but less fruitful
- Kiwifruit vines have strong apical growth
- These apically dominant buds are the first to move in the spring and the growth from lower lateral buds is suppressed by them
- Summer pruning stimulates regrowth

Apical Dominance

- The bud at the tip (the apical bud) of the shoot produces plant growth regulators that stop other buds from growing – it dominates



Apical Dominance



- Apical dominance is used to encourage strong growth up strings
- Where you make a cut, you are likely to get strong growth (mostly)

Stringing

- A technique used in Gold3 to maximise vegetative growth
 - When establishing young vines
 - To re-invigorate a canopy
- Not so successful in Hayward
- Strung canes are not as fruitful

Stringing

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VadUJ6KnQkM>



Stringing



Growth from the Leader



Growth from the Leader



Growth from the Leader



Growth from the Leader



Kicking Out



consultancy ● *training* ● *innovation*

Removing suckers



- Do check that the grower wants this done.
- Kick unwanted suckers off at the base of the sucker

Training Young/grafted Vines

- Priorities
 1. Trunk
 2. Leader
 3. Fruiting cane
- Always check with your supervisor about what to do!!!

Training Young Vines



Maintaining Tools

- Well maintained tools will work better for you and reduce risk of repetitive strain injuries.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vROuLbOuYq0>

On Orchard

- Travel to orchard – 12.30 pm
- Health and Safety Briefing/Pruning Specifications
- Opportunity to do some prune and tie down vines due to be removed
- Finish by 4 pm