

Consider Rootstocks!

Using rootstocks in wine grape production is a long-term solution for managing soilborne pests such as nematodes and phylloxera. But rootstocks can also be a tool for managing vigor, drought stress, nutrient uptake, and vine phenology. While Washington has historically relied on own-rooted vines, the future of sustainable farming in the state will include use of rootstocks.

When You Receive Your Grafted Vines

All Vines:

- Open the container immediately and inspect the vines.
- Ideally, all vines (dormant or green) should be planted as soon as possible upon receipt and inspection.

Dormant Vines:

- If packing material is dry, spray down lightly with water.



Not Planting Right Away? Properly Store Your Grafted Vines

Dormant Vines:

Vines should be kept moist and stored in a cool location (above freezing, but ideally below 50°F) prior to planting.

Green Vines:

- Store in opened boxes protected from extreme heat, direct sunlight and wind such as in a shop, under a lean-to or on the shady side of a large tree.
- Make sure the vines do not dry out. They may need to be irrigated 2 to 3 times daily until planted.

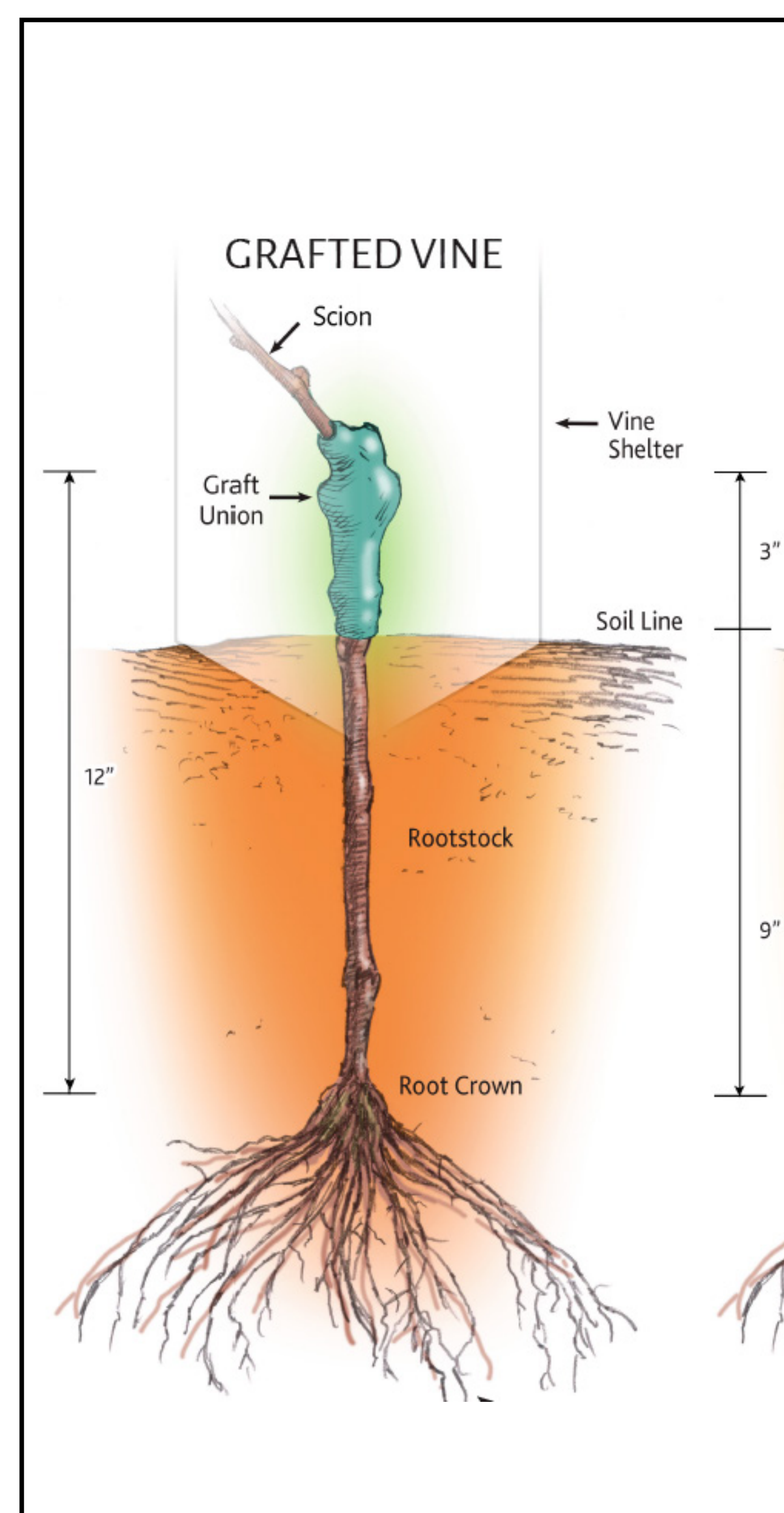
Planting Grafted Vines

DORMANT VINES - FIELD GROWN OR POTS

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.

Planting Instructions

1. Soil moisture must be adequate at the time of planting. Irrigate prior to planting.
2. 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.
3. Dig planting holes at least one foot deep and at least the width of the trimmed roots.
4. Place the vine in the hole, spreading the roots evenly over the mound on the bottom. Make sure the roots are in a slightly downward position to avoid J-rooting.
5. Adjust the vine height if necessary. For grafted vines, the graft union should be 3 to 4" above the soil line.
6. Backfill the hole with the original soil, free of herbicide residue, until roots are covered. 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. Place a vine shelter over the vine.
7. Irrigate soon after planting. This will help settle the soil around the roots and remove any air pockets.
8. Do not fertilize until growth has started.

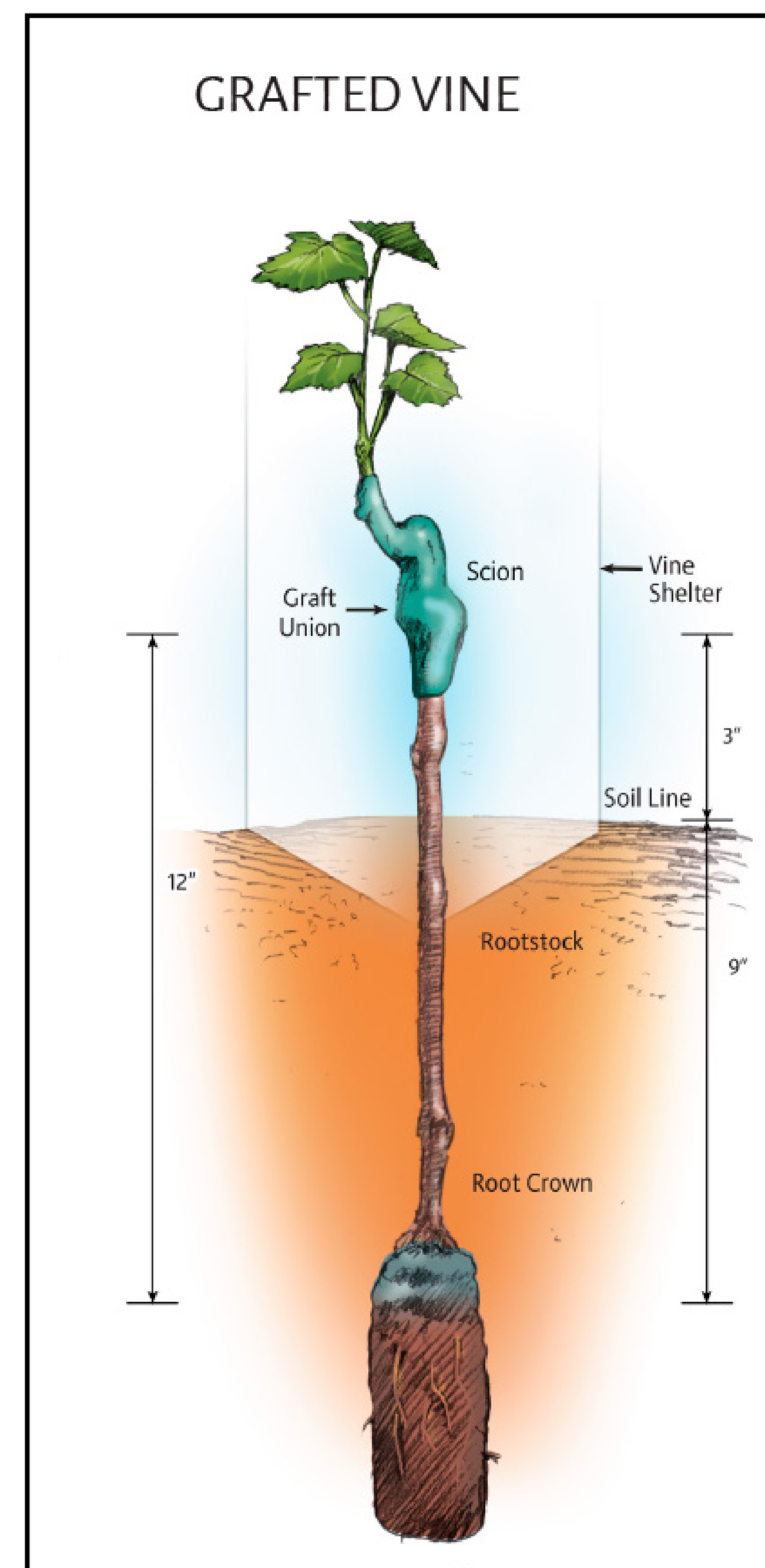


GREEN VINES - POTS

The best time of year for green-potted vines to be planted is Early May to Late June. Planting in July can be successful too if the weather is not extremely hot.

Planting Instructions

1. Soil moisture must be adequate at the time of planting. Irrigate prior to planting if needed.
2. Dig planting holes slightly wider and deeper than the root balls of the vines.
3. Place the vine in the hole. DO NOT remove mesh fabric if present on the root ball.
4. Check to make sure the plant is at proper height and adjust if necessary. For grafted vines, the graft union should be 3 to 4" above the soil line.
5. Fill the remainder of the hole, leaving a small reservoir for water, and firm the soil again around the base of the plant. Do not compact the soil too excessively around the root ball or damage to the roots may occur.
6. Place a vine shelter over the vine.
7. Irrigate soon after planting. This will help settle the soil around the roots and remove any air pockets.
8. After the initial irrigation after planting, fertilizer applications can be started.



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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. Phylloxera - Washington State University Webpage, including rootstock resources: <https://wine.wsu.edu/extension/grapes-vineyards/grape-pests/phyllloxera/>
2. Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Grants: <https://western.sare.org/grants/farmer-rancher/>

Interested in your own on-farm rootstock trial?

We can help! As a part of this project, we will be conducting workshops in 2024, which include how to plan for your own on farm research or demonstration trial. Check out the Washington State University Events webpage in the spring of 2024 for more details as to when these workshops will occur.

<https://wine.wsu.edu/events/>