Cold Climate Grape Growing
30 Years and Counting

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Beginnings

First planting - 1975
MGGA charter member
Commercial venture - 1982
Commercial business:
Wine/table grapes
Nursery - cold hardy varieties
Lessons Learned . . .

Do not use child labor
Do not used salvaged wire
Do not take extended summer vacations
Tips . . .

Try not to lose your love of wildlife
Avoid Tendonitis!

Sharpen pruners often
Always bring loppers or saw
Young Vines to Bearing Vines

Transition vines slowly to bearing

2 year old vines - no fruit

Foliage develops faster than roots

Be conservative - don’t rush

vines into bearing
Weed Control

This is the most boring subject in grape culture . . .

But it is the most critical!
#1 Reason
Vineyards
Fail:
Failure to control weeds
Multiple Trunks

Over-used
Misunderstood
Often unnecessary
Theory

Two trunks - one old/one new

In event of cold injury . . .

One trunk (normally young one)
continues bearing

Does not affect winter survival
of the vine
Upside of Multiple Trunks

Can allow marginal varieties to be more profitable at your site
Downside of Multiple Trunks

Training takes additional time and money

Pruning is more complex and more time consuming

Vine energy divided by two/three
Downside continued . . .

One trunk will be dominant:
  Variable ripening
  Variable quality

Replacement is:
  Continuous/Costly

For the life of the vine
Use multiple trunks for:

Varieties proven marginal at your site

Cold tender varieties requiring winter cover

Combating crown gall
Multiple Trunks . . .

Not for all varieties
in all areas
at all sites

Justify before implementing!
Marketing Your Crop

Do your homework!

Before planting:
Poll wineries for varieties most in demand
First Harvest

Contact wineries in spring
Be specific on varieties/pounds available
Send letters/photos to wineries
Martell Vineyards
Tom and Deb Martell
www.martellvineyards.com
439 208 Ave Somerset WI  54025
715-247-3386
Invite winemakers to view crop

Sell crop long before harvest
Take Pride

Delivering a crop of quality grapes is an accomplishment!

U of MN’s Marquette
Questions???