Installing the Vineyard Trellis
ISU Horticulture Research Station planting before the trellis system was installed (July 2002)
Post locations were marked, and line post were set out
Driving a line post with a hydraulic driver.

The narrow end of 3.5” x 8’ posts were driven 2 ft into the ground.
Because the vines were already growing and trained on bamboo stakes, we worked across the rows to avoid damaging the vines.
Because the end posts were a larger diameter and were being set in un-tilled soil, pilot holes were dug.
5” x 8’ end posts were driven 8 ft from the last line post with the narrow end down
End posts were driven to a depth of 3.5 ft leaving 4.5 ft exposed (physical constraints of the driver).

Depth was checked with a pre-marked pole.
Constructing the “H”- brace
Drilling a 3/8” hole 2.5 inches into one end of a brace post
Drilling a 3/8” hole 2.5 inches into the end post. The hole was positioned to leave a 1.5 -2” stub above the brace post for attaching the top wire.
A 5 inch brace pin is inserted into the end post and the brace post is slipped over it.
The brace post is leveled & blocked, and a 3/8” hole is drilled through the line post into the brace post.
A 9 inch brace pin is inserted to secure the brace post. About 1.5 inches is left sticking out to catch the brace wire.
# 9 soft wire is strung between the posts and the ends are spliced to form a loop
Staples are used to secure the brace wire near the bottom of the end post.
The brace wire is twisted to tighten the brace assembly
A completed H-brace anchor system
12.5 ga high-tensile wire is strung down the row and attached to the end post with crimping sleeves.
A crimping tool is used to crimp the sleeves
The wire is being attached to the line posts with 2” staples
Two staples were used for added strength when attaching the top wire.
Strainers are attached to the opposite end post with staples used to hold their position.
The wire is tightened by taking it up on a strainer
The wire tension is checked with a gauge consisting of a home-made jig and fishing scale.
The completed trellis system
Vines are being trained up to the top wire with the aid of bamboo stakes and string.
The construction crew

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