

CONVERSION OF TRADITIONAL BUSH VINES TO I-TRELLIS SYSTEM

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Traditional system

- Traditional method of growing grapes is as bush vines
 - Low yield potential
 - No trellis support for shoots during summer
 - Grapes are close to the soil surface; problems with dust, harvesting, physical damage to clusters
 - Only suitable for varieties with naturally high fertility on spurs (2-3 buds)

Traditional bush vine



New trellis system (I-trellis)

- Changing the traditional system to the I-trellis will
 - Increase yield potential
 - Provide support for the shoots during summer
 - Better protection for the clusters from sun and other physical damage
 - Suitable for varieties that have naturally low fertility on spurs, ie that must be pruned with long canes (10-14 buds)

New I-trellis systems



Pruning during the year of conversion

- Principles
 - No crop loss expected
 - Tie 3-4 strong canes to the cordon wire
 - Remove all bearing spurs and canes at the bottom
 - Continuously remove all new growth from the bottom part of the vine through the season

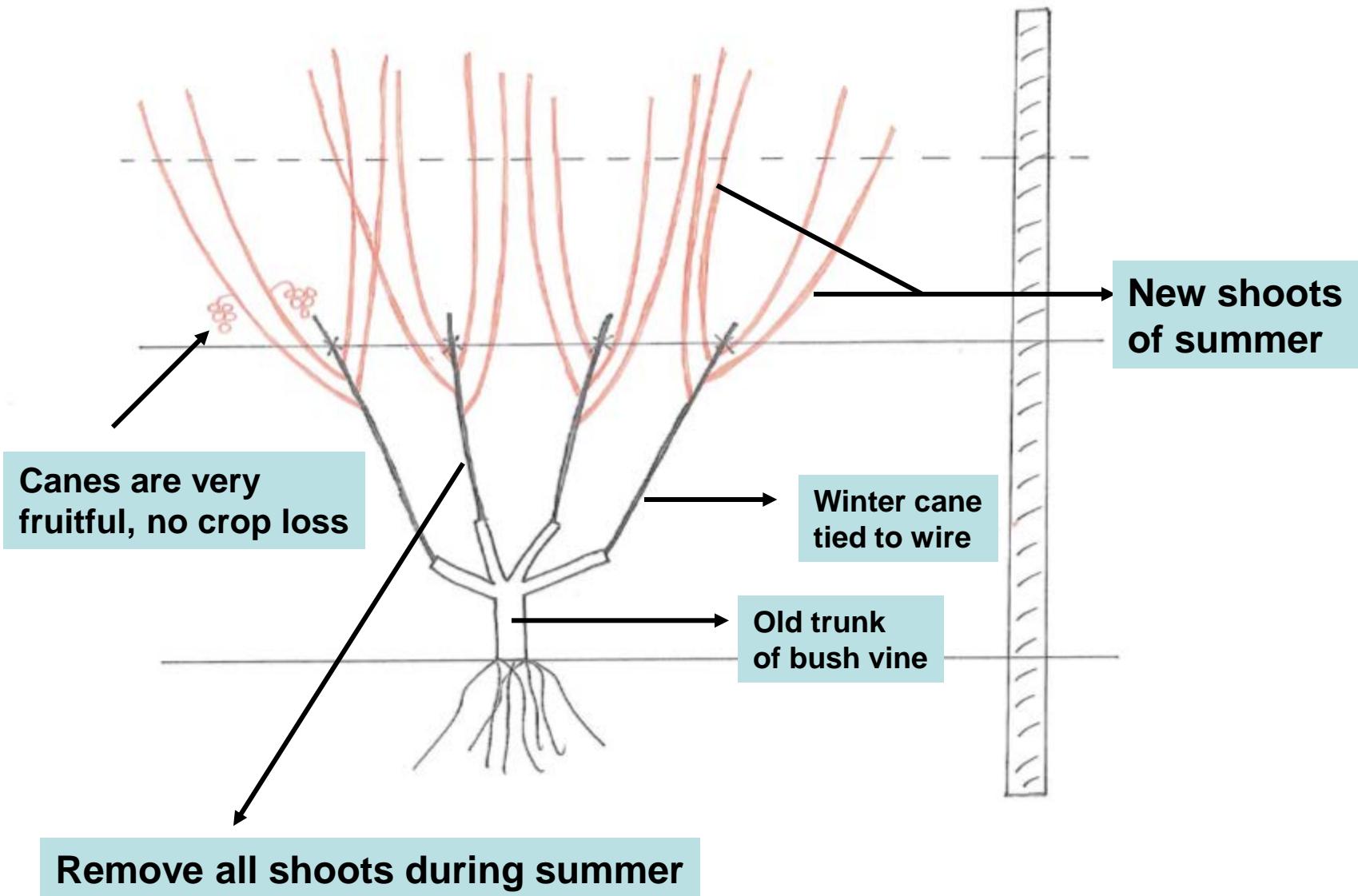
Traditional bush vine before pruning



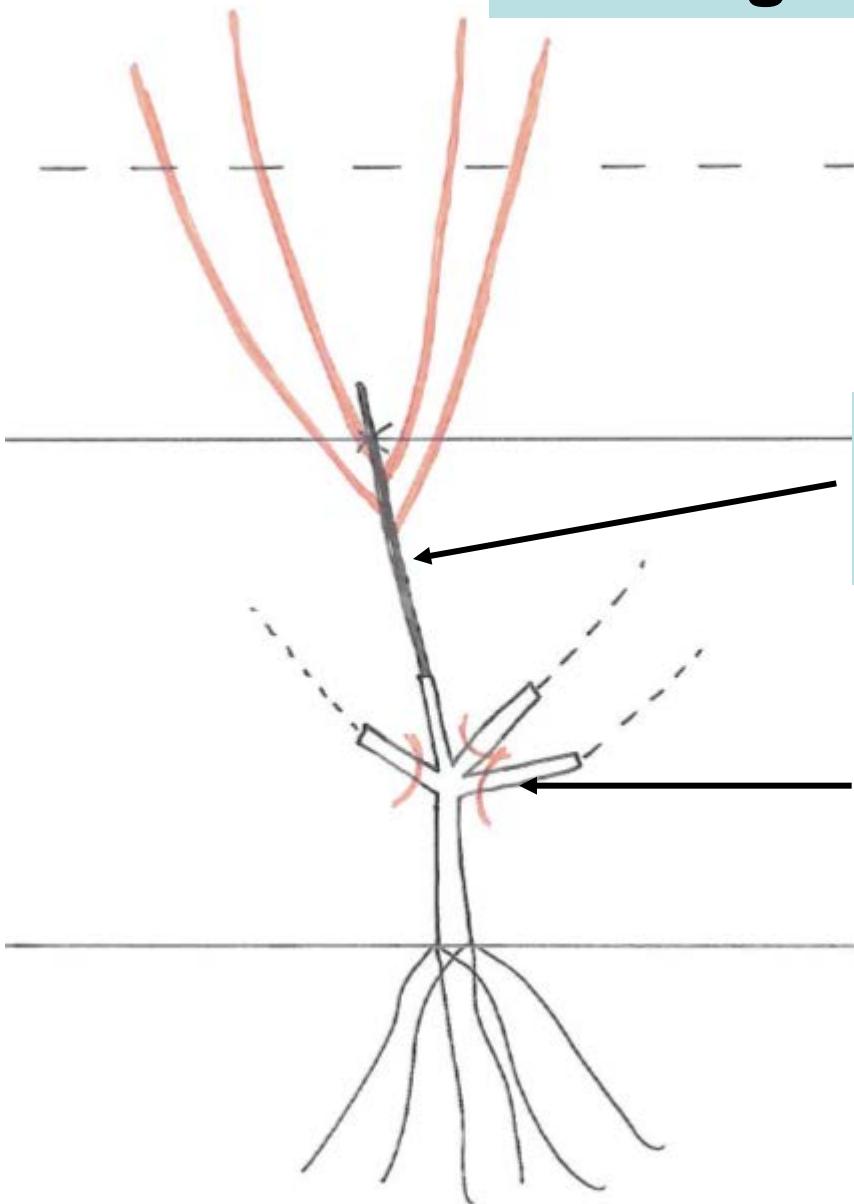
Traditional bush vine after pruning for trellising



Summer management during first season



Pruning in winter of second season



Retain only the strongest
and most upright cane from
previous season

Remove other canes

Practical in the field before pruning

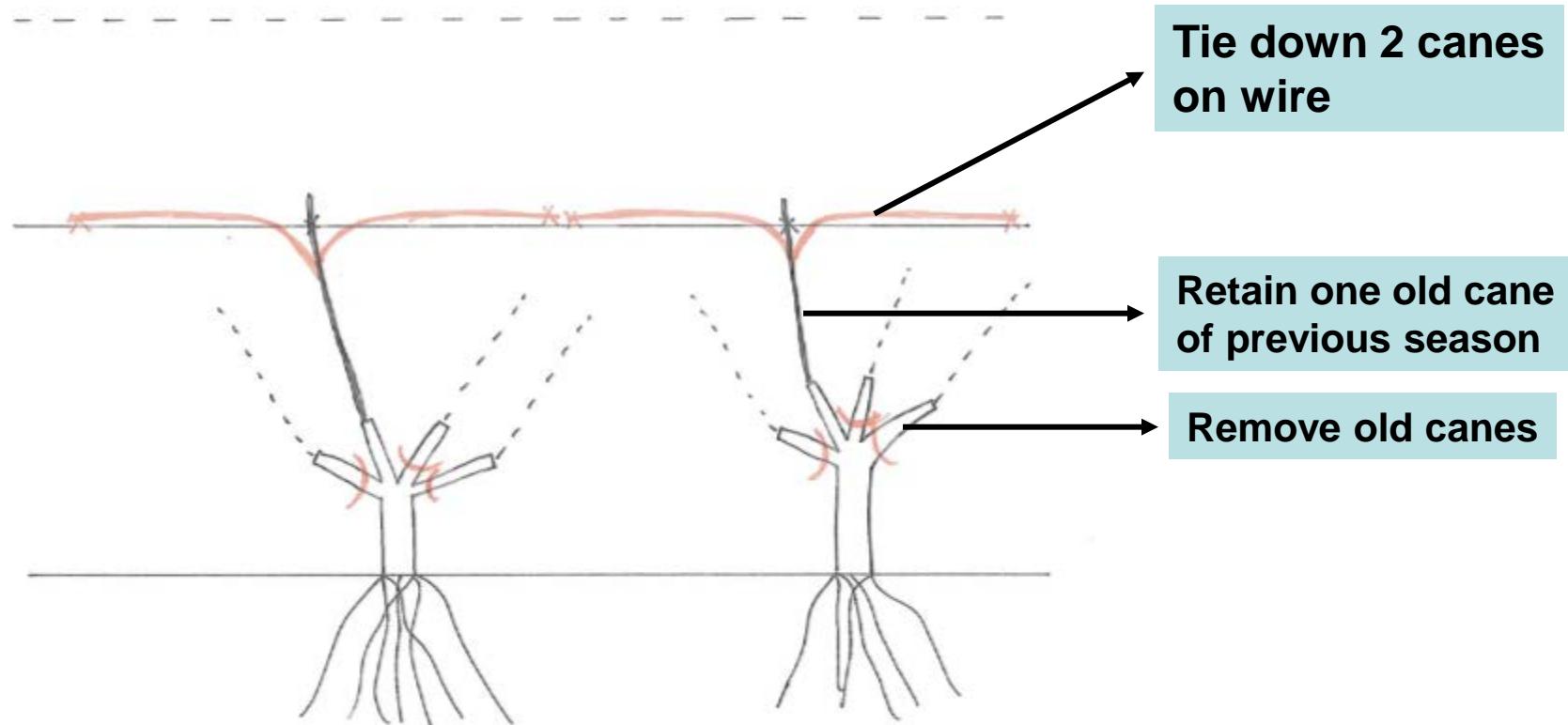


4 new canes with strong vigour

→ Cane from previous season

LONG TERM SPUR PRUNING (high fertility varieties)

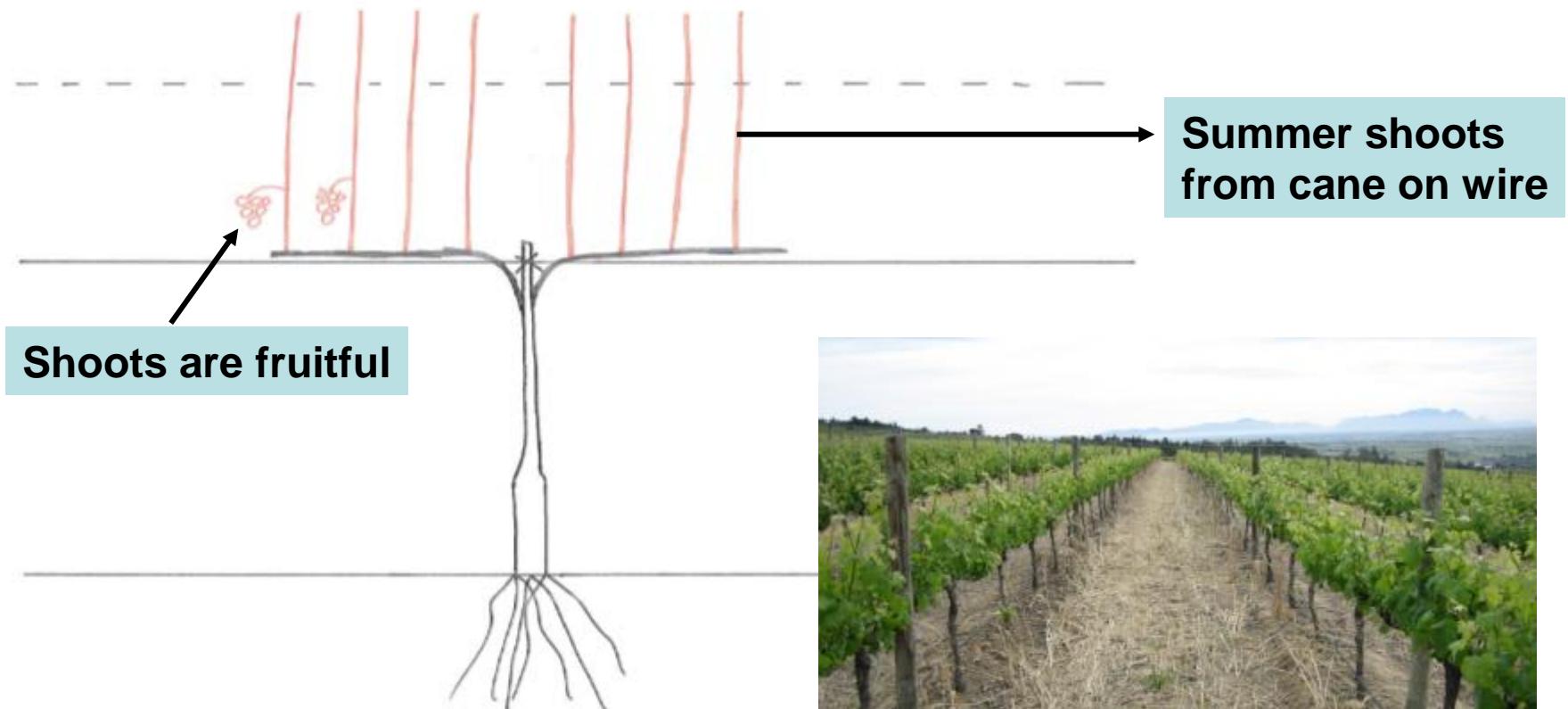
Pruning during winter after first season



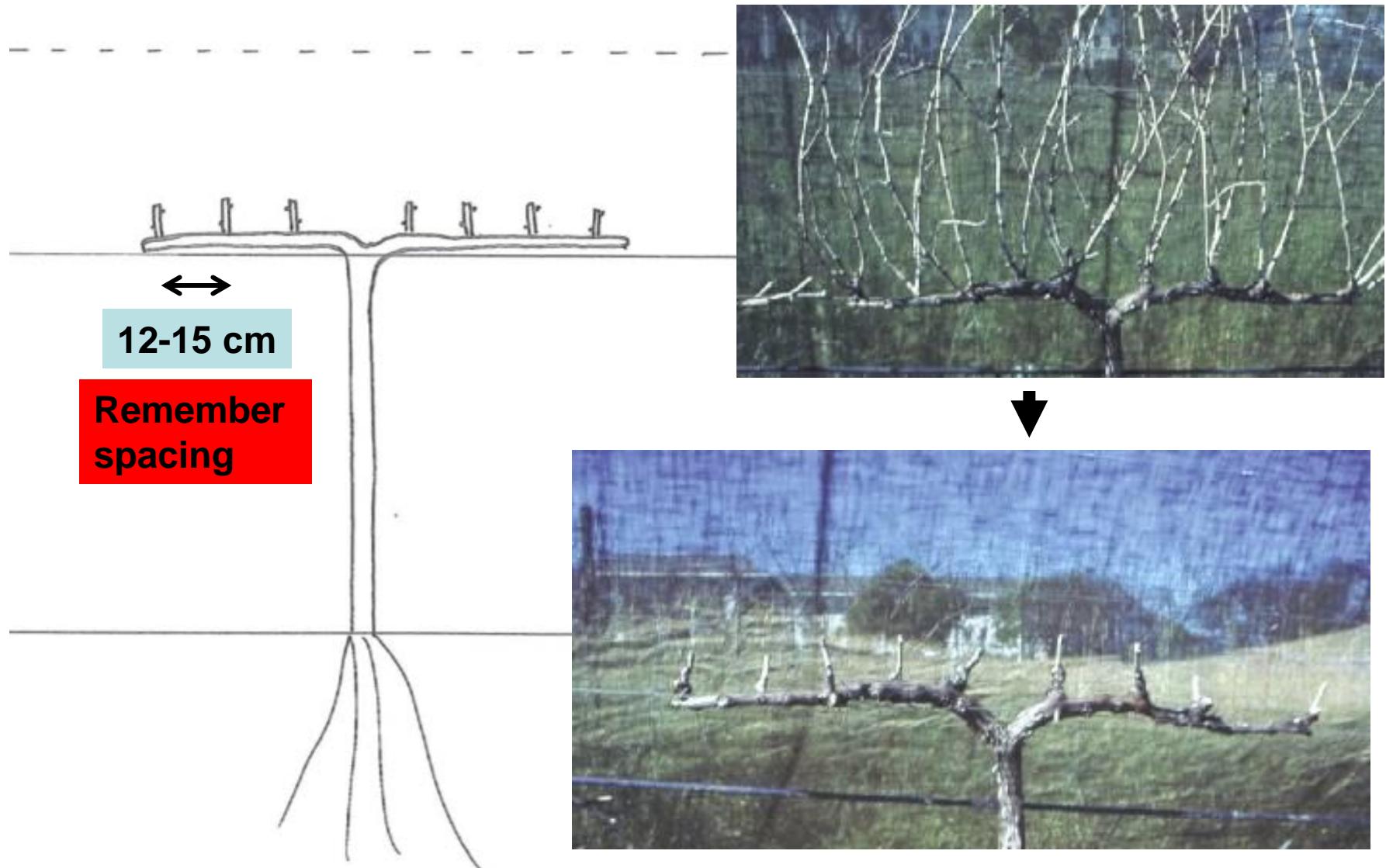
After pruning



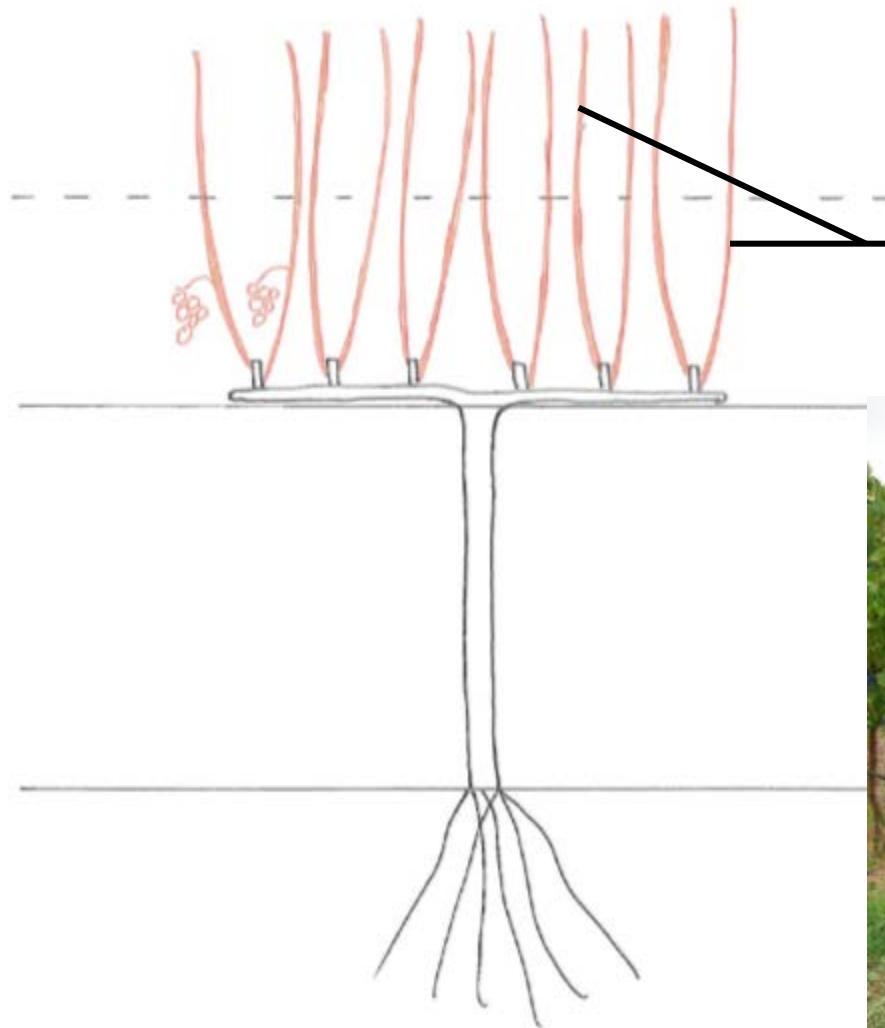
Summer development during second season



Pruning in winter after second season

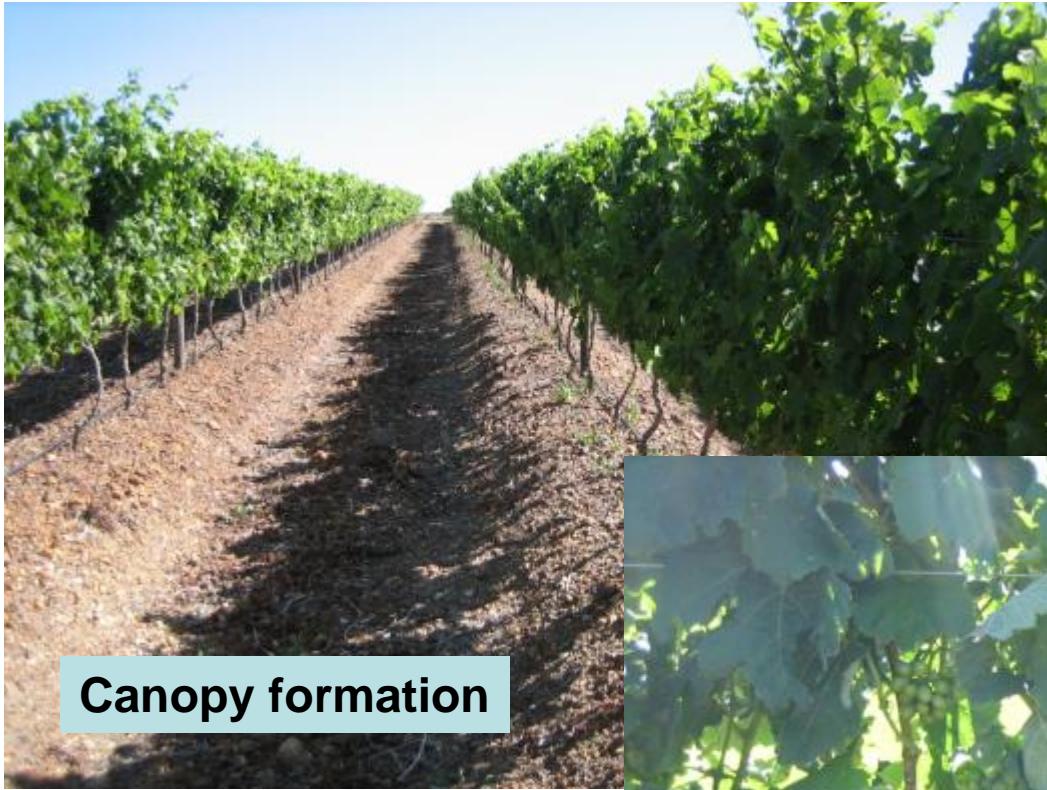


Summer development during third season



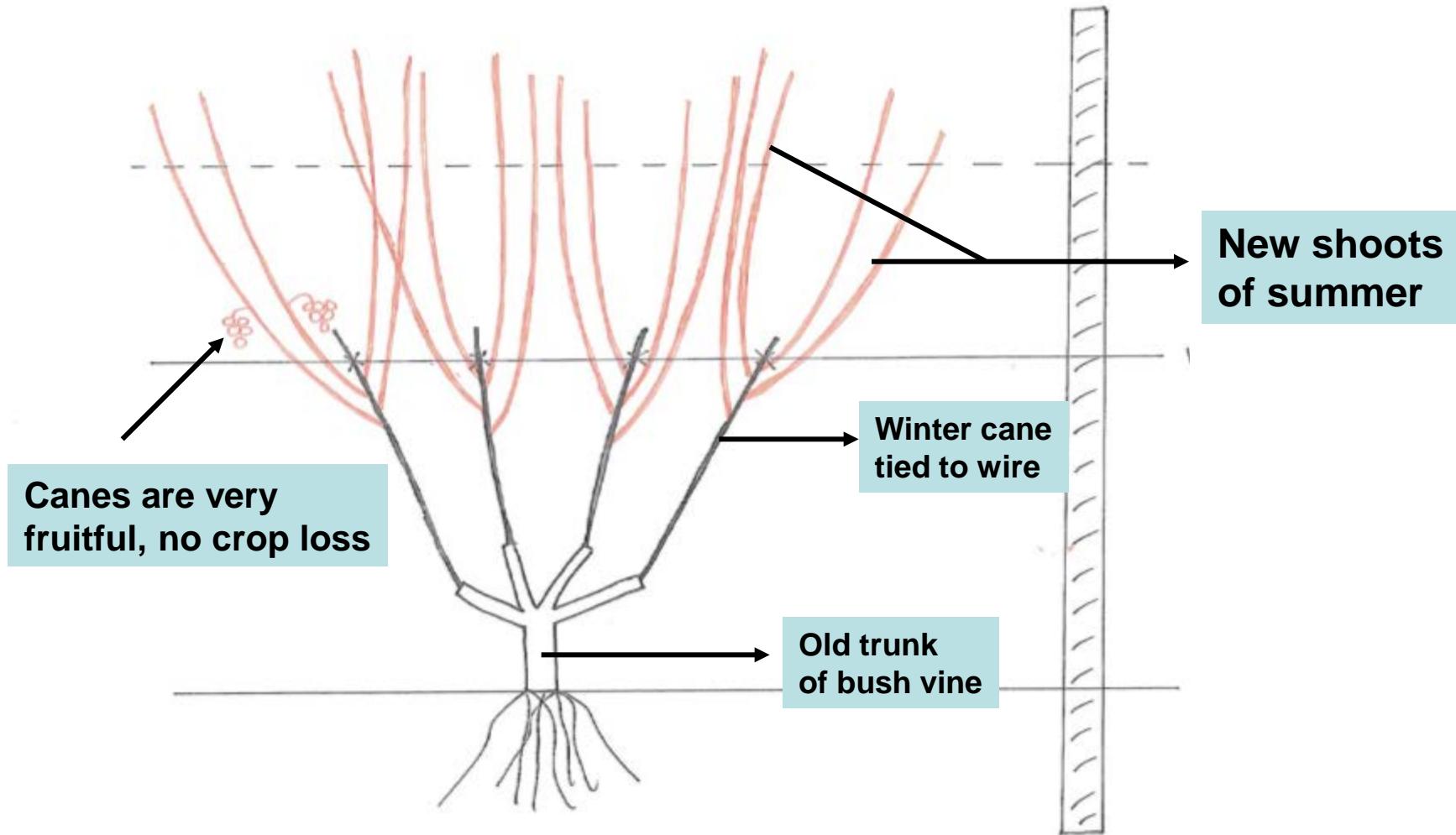
Summer shoots with clusters





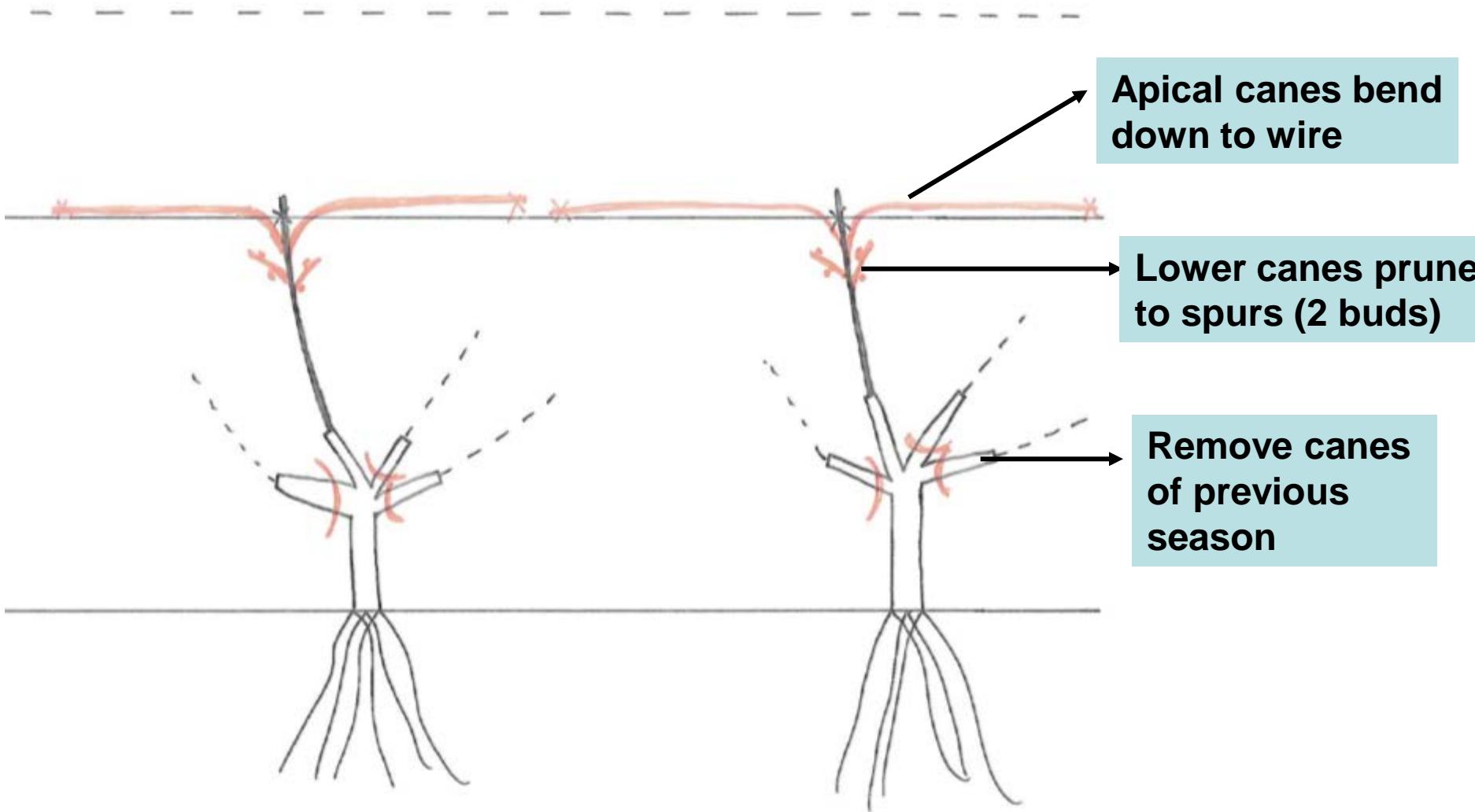
LONG TERM CANE PRUNING

Summer management during first season

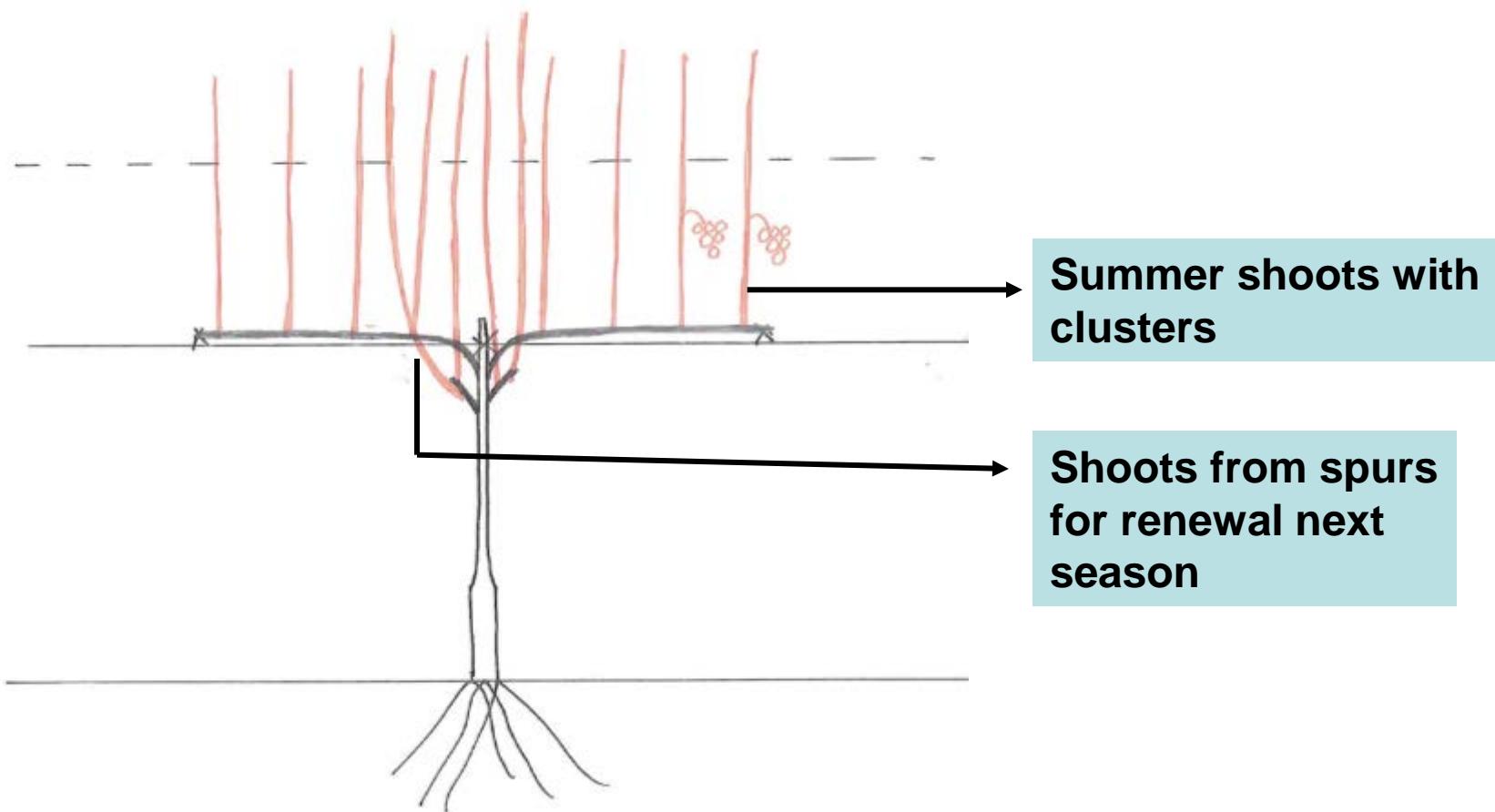


LONG TERM CANE PRUNING (low fertility varieties)

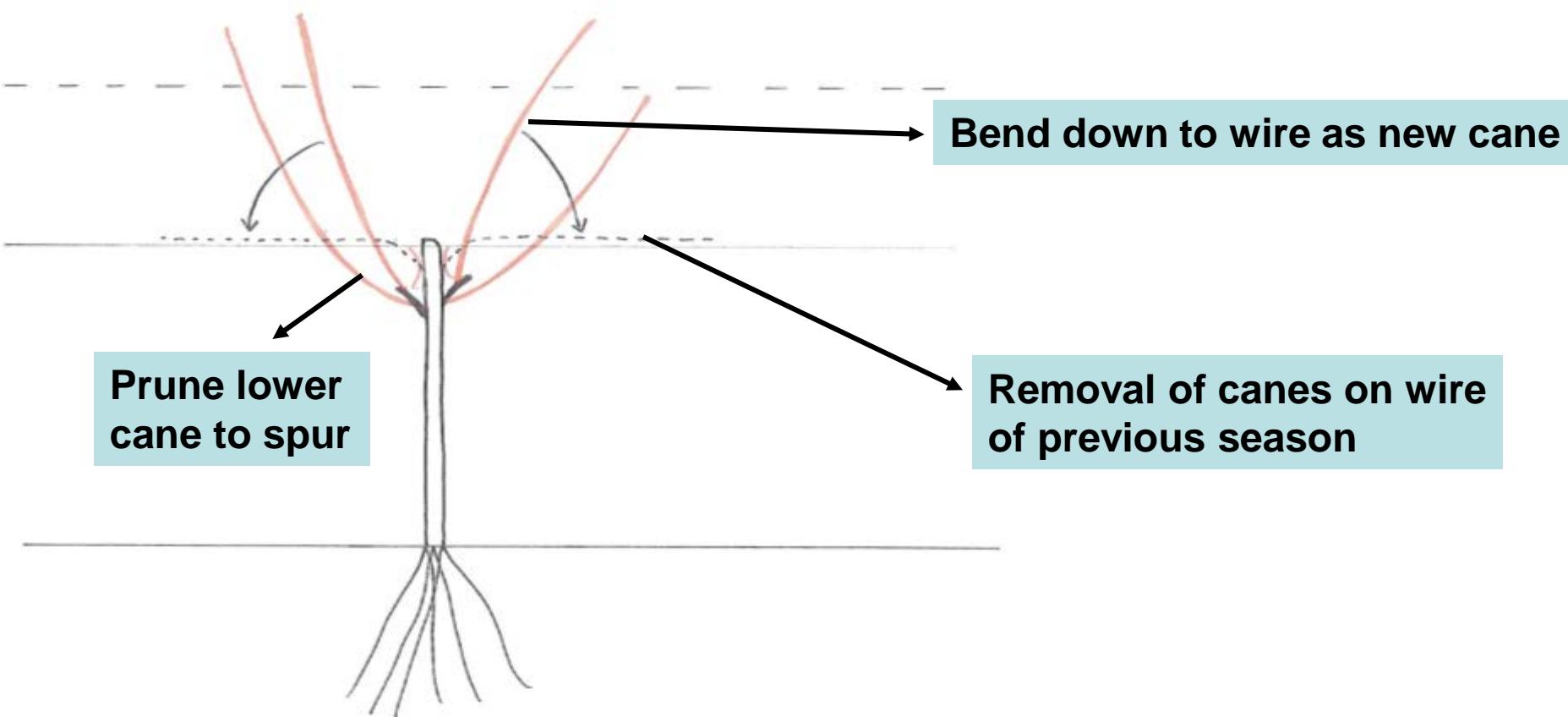
Pruning during winter after first season



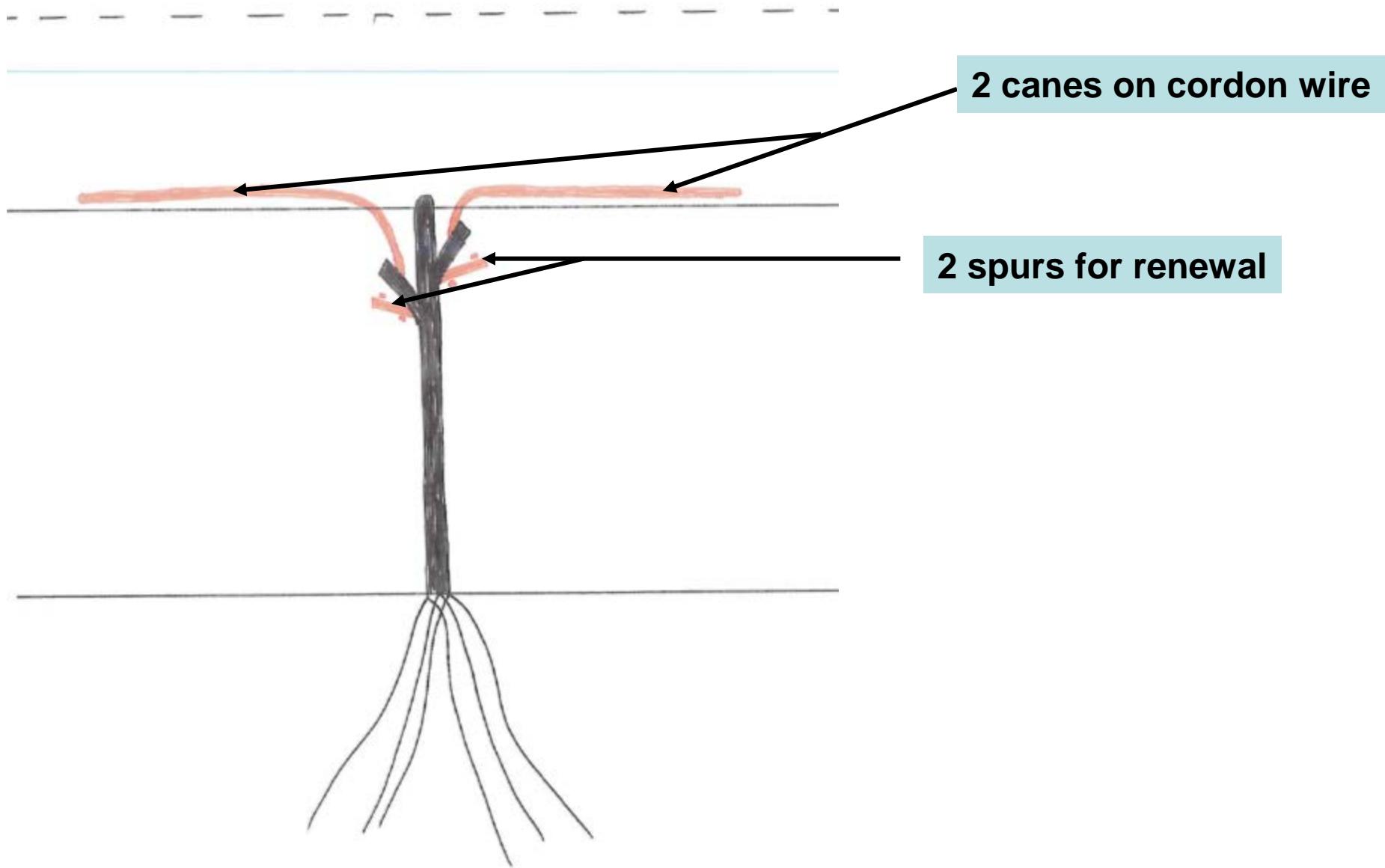
Summer development during second season



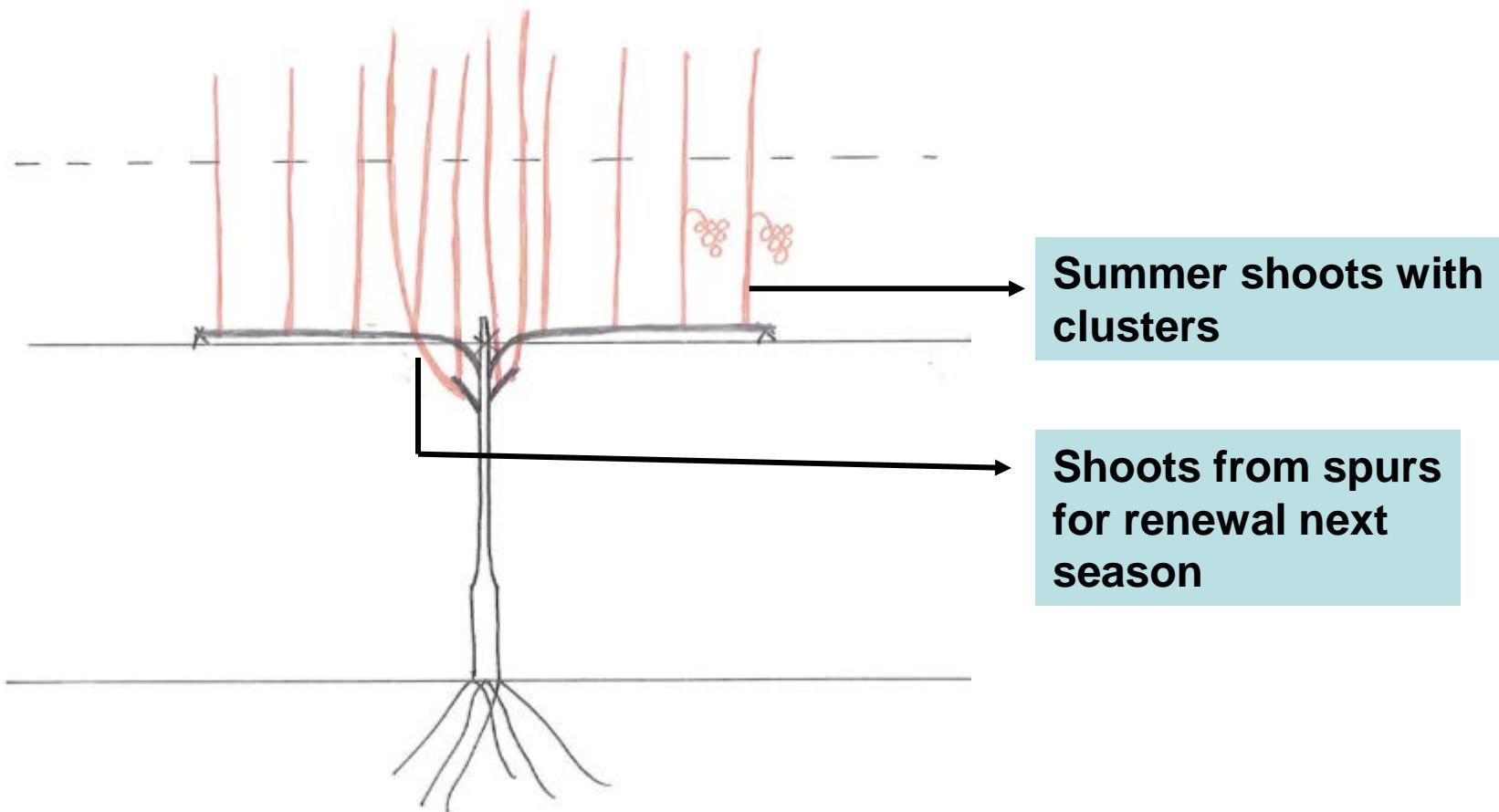
Pruning in winter after second season



After pruning



Summer development during third season



Summary

- Conversion will be very successful if all steps are applied correctly
- No crop loss will occur if proper training/pruning is done as suggested
- Removal of shoots during summer of first season at the bottom is very important to ensure strong development at the top