

Vineyard Pruning Practices for Growers and Agents in Mississippi and Louisiana

Collaborators:

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Objectives:

Conduct vineyard (grape and muscadine) pruning workshops in Mississippi and Louisiana.

- Discussion of vineyard best management practices
- Pruning demonstrations in the vineyard
- Hands-on practice for workshop participants

Abstract:

The muscadine is a popular home crop across the South because of its natural adaptability, resistance to diseases and insects, and long vine life. Muscadines can be included in home plantings on fence-rows or homemade trellises. The fruit is used for unfermented juices, wines, jams, jellies, and pies. Although more challenging to produce in the Deep South, bunch grapes are an emerging crop. Along with interest in craft brewing of beer, there is renewed interest in home and small-scale commercial winemaking.

Two vineyard workshops sponsored by the Southern Region Small Fruit Consortium were held in March 2022. The first was hosted at the Mississippi State University Beaumont Horticultural Unit in Perry County, MS and the second at the Louisiana State University Horticulture Hill Farm in Baton Rouge, LA. The Beaumont Horticultural Unit is a 20-acre branch of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station. The vineyard contains a variety of muscadine and bunch grape cultivars ranging in age between 3 and 45 years old. This makes the vineyard an excellent location for demonstrating the care and pruning of new vines as well as the rejuvenation and care of older vines. The Horticulture Hill Farm Teaching Facility is a site on the LSU campus that is a formal and informal teaching facility dedicated to horticulture science. There is a small demonstration orchard for teaching fruit production that includes a vineyard. Muscadines in the Louisiana vineyard are all grown in 40-gallon containers and trellised.

The programs covered the basics of vine anatomy and pruning techniques for muscadines and bunch grapes. After the presentations, in-field demonstrations provided participants the opportunity to practice correct pruning techniques. The MSU event was attended mostly by home gardeners along with two vineyard producers and two Extension agents. The LSU program was attended by 19 horticulture Extension agents and 2 professional growers.

Felco #2 pruners were given to participants to utilize during the workshop and to use in their own operations.

Vineyard Pruning Workshop

Date: March 17, 2022

Please indicate your response to each item. (Check one)	Not applicable	None	A Little	Some	A Lot
1. The speakers					
a. were knowledgeable of the subject matter.					15/100%
b. related program content to real-life situations.					15/100%
2. The contents were					
a. relevant to my needs.				3/20%	12/80%
b. at an understandable level.					15/100%
c. well-organized.					15/100%
d. based on credible, up-to-date information.					15/100%
3. I learned new knowledge on fruits and nuts	2/13%			2/13%	9/60%
4. I will use information I learned in this program.				2/13%	13/87%
5. I will tell others about what I learned in this program.				2/13%	13/87%

6. When I apply the information I learned in this program, the economic impact on my business will be (check all that apply):

- Saving costs – approximately \$ _____ per year
- Making more sales – approximately \$ _____ per year
- 15 Don't know or not applicable

7. How much are you or your business willing to pay for the information that you learned from this program?
Responses: \$ 30, 1, 20, 200, 20, 50, 250-300 (Range = \$1-\$300; Average = \$88.71)

8. How much of the content covered did you already know?	None	A Little (5/33%)	Some (4/27%)	A Lot (2/13%)
9. How many of the resource materials will you use?	None	A Little	Some (4/27%)	A Lot (9/60%)
10. How well did the information presented meet your expectations?	Not at All	A Little	Some	A Lot (14/93%)

11. Please write any additional comments below.

Spectacular Info!

Very well done workshop.

The hands-on demonstration was very helpful.

Thank You!

44 Registrants; 31 Participants; 15 Survey Respondents (48.39% response rate)

Handouts provided:

Stafne, E. 2016. Fruit and nut review: bunch grapes. Info. Sheet 1608. Mississippi State University Extension.

Stafne, E. 2018. Fruit and nut review: muscadines. Info. Sheet 1445. Mississippi State University Extension.

Stafne, E. 2021. Establishment and production of muscadine grapes. Publication 2290. Mississippi State University Extension.

Program:

Welcome and Introduction...Dr. Christine Coker

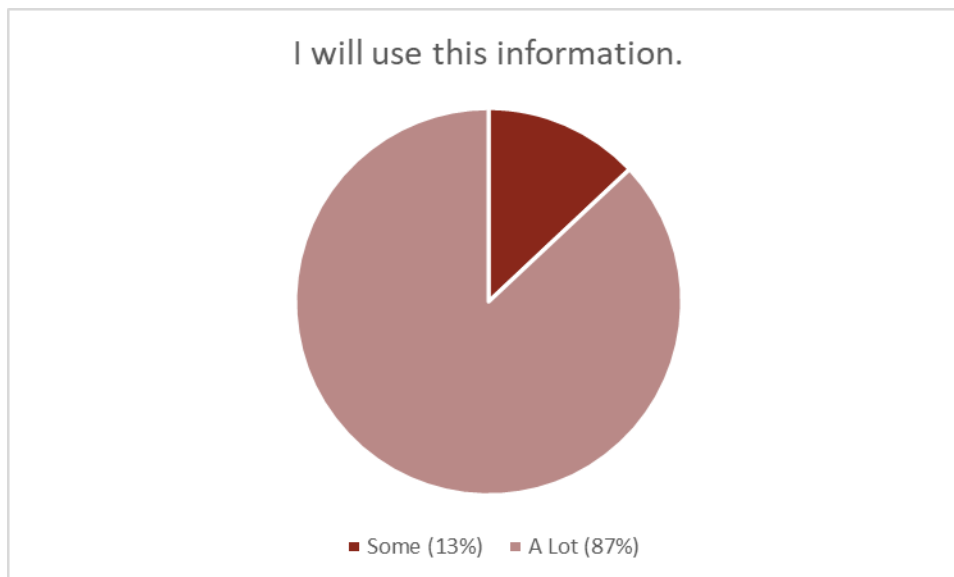
Remarks...Dr. Kiki Fontenot

General muscadine and bunch grape information...Dr. Eric Stafne

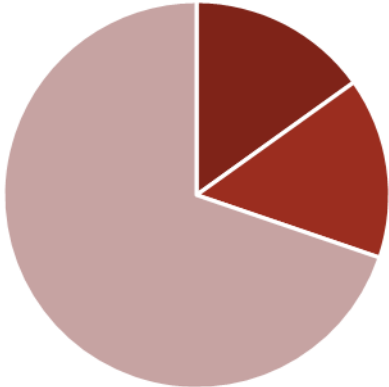
Hands-on pruning demonstration in vineyard

The first 24 registrants in attendance (at each workshop) were provided Felco 2 pruners for use during the demonstration and training and to use in their own vines.

The programs were promoted via Facebook, Twitter, and through MSU and LSU Extension mailing lists. MSU: 1,842 impressions, 89 engagements (n=2 tweets); LSU: 3,841 impressions, 130 engagements (n=4 tweets)

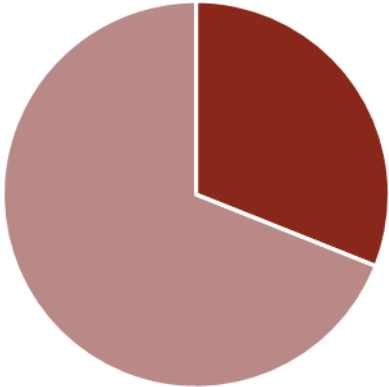


I learned new knowledge on fruits and nuts.



■ Not Applicable (13%) ■ Some (13%) ■ A Lot (60%)

How many of the resource materials will I use?



■ Some (27%) ■ A Lot (60%)



Vineyard Pruning Workshop

Date: March 21, 2022



Please indicate your response to each item. (Check one)	Not applicable	None	A Little	Some	A Lot
1. The speakers					
a. were knowledgeable of the subject matter.					21/100%
b. related program content to real-life situations.				1/5%	20/95%
2. The contents were					
a. relevant to my needs.			1/5%	4/19%	16/76%
b. at an understandable level.					21/100%
c. well-organized.			1/5%	5/24%	15/71%
d. based on credible, up-to-date information.				1/5%	20/95%
3. I will use information I learned in this program.				3/14%	18/86%
4. I will tell others about what I learned in this program.			1/5%	3/14%	17/81%

5. When I apply the information I learned in this program, the economic impact on my business will be (check all that apply):

Saving costs – approximately \$_____ per year (**1 person selected this with an answer of don't know how much**)

Making more sales – approximately \$_____ per year (**1 person selected this with an answer of don't know how much**)

Don't know or not applicable **18 people selected this... we had two growers and 19 county agents, so most people did not have a personal business that attended our workshop.**

6. How much of the content covered did you already know?	None (2/9.5%)	A Little (6/28.5%)	Some (11/52%)	A Lot (2/9.5%)
7. How many of the resource materials will you use?	None	A Little (1/5%)	Some (7/33%)	A Lot (13/62%)
8. How well did the information presented meet your expectations?	Not at All	A Little (1/5%)	Some (2/ 9.5%)	A Lot (18/86%)

9. Please write any additional comments below.

- **Very informative, in support of future workshops as these.**

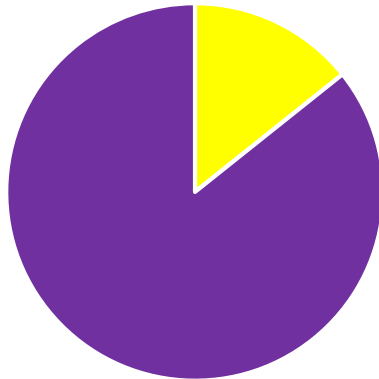
- **Would like more training on any small fruit crop. Would also recommend videos made for each topic to place on YouTube and send to agents (for topics without existing videos)**

- **No commercial growers in my area maybe a handful of homeowners in both parishes. The only time that I couldn't make a training is month of October. Parish fairs + state fair. All trainings are great for me because of limited hort experience. Anyway I can grow + learn the better.**

- **Training on PrimoCane Blackberries, Updates on Raspberry Production, Blackberry Pruning.**

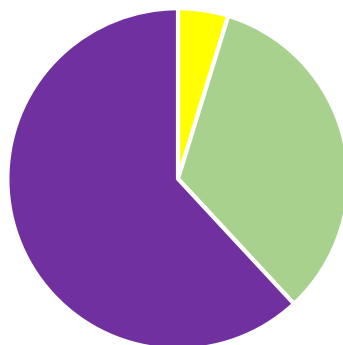
- Excellent training. Much more on fruit production, especially for home or small growers, since the state commonly has no large fruit specialist.
- Blueberry workshop, blackberry workshop, compost, gardening workshop.
- Very well done! I like not being in a lecture the whole time! Additional trainings - strawberries - mirliton – pecan - mint. Thank you!
- Please host a blueberry workshop, blackberry workshop, compost, gardening workshop.

I will use information I learned in this program



■ Some ■ A Lot

How many of the resource materials will you use?



■ A Little ■ Some ■ A Lot