

TRELLISES FOR DRIED-ON-THE-VINE (DOV) RAISIN PRODUCTION

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Traditional trellises

Typical raisin vineyards may have single-wire trellises, if vine vigor is low to moderate, or a T-trellis (typical cross arm width of 24”) if vigor is moderate to high. The limited canopy spread generally limits yields to two to three tons per acre, and raisins might be difficult to dry on these trellises. Poor raisin drying is due partly to poor canopy spread and partly due to the fact that most older vineyards are planted to ‘Thompson Seedless’, a late-maturing variety. Raisins may be harvested mechanically with a wine-grape harvester.



South side

Traditional trellises in vineyards with east-west row orientations may be retrofitted to a south-side system. An angled cross-arm is added to each trellis stake to support two wires on which fruiting canes are tied. Renewal shoots are trained to the foliage catch wires above, and to the north, of the south facing cross arm attachment. This separates the canopy and the southern exposure of the fruit facilitates drying. Raisins may be harvested mechanically with a south-side harvester. Yields of this system are similar to yields in traditional raisin vineyards. This trellis system is patented by Sun Maid Growers.



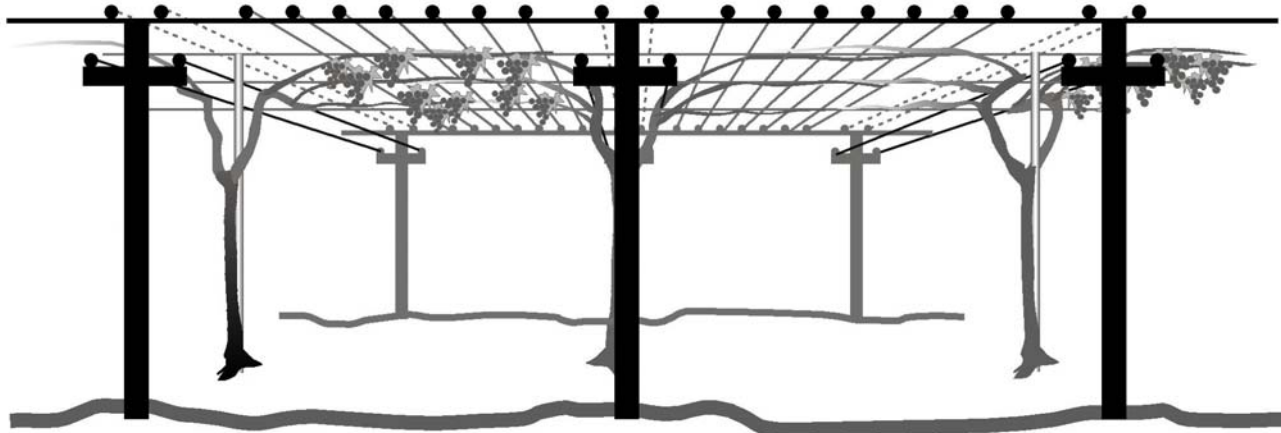
Open gable

The open-gable is a Y-shaped trellis, similar to that used for table-grape production. Canes are tied to wires supported by the cross arms. Renewal shoots are guided to the center of the trellis. At the Kearney Agricultural Center, Parlier, yields in the past few years have averaged 4 to 4.5 tons of raisins per acre.



Overhead arbor

Vines on an overhead arbor are trained so that fruit are concentrated in alternating row middles. The combination of quadrilateral cordon training, an overhead arbor trellis, and alternating fruiting and renewal middles may be protected by copyright, but vines may be trained to a head or bilateral cordon. This system enhances vine capacity; yields of 4.5-5.5 tons per acre are common.





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