Shoot Thinning

- Four to six shoots per foot along the cordon
  - 8 ft spacing, 32 to 48 shoots per vine
    single curtain/high cordon
  - 64 to 96 for divided canopy (GDC)
Shoot Thinning

- Best done when shoots are 1 to 3 inches for the ones on the trunk and 6 to 12 inches for those on the cordon.
- Done after the last chance of a spring frost
Shoot Positioning

- Ideal world - shoots are parallel to the trunk
- Real world - they grow parallel to the cordon with tendrils attached to the cordon wire
- Shoot positioning discourages lateral and horizontal growth
Shoot Positioning

- **Tucking**
  - Generic term for positioning shoots upward
  - Used on
    - Low wire systems such as vertical shoot positioning (VSP)

- **Combing**
  - Generic term for positioning shoots downward
  - Used on
    - High cordon
    - Geneva double curtain (GDC)
Shoot Positioning

- Combing/tucking
  - Used on
    - Vertically divided canopies
      - Scott Henry
      - Smart Dyson
Shoot Positioning

- When
  - As soon as possible after bloom
  - And when shoots develop enough to avoid snapping or breakage
Cluster thinning helps promote long term benefit to the well-being and life span of the vineyard.
Some Cultivars may require cluster thinning

- Seyval
- Chancellor
- Vidal
- Chambourcin
- Frontenac
Cluster Thinning

- **When**
  - Two times
    - Pre Bloom
      - Removal of flower clusters
    - Post Fruit Set
      - Berry set will be less per cluster than Pre Bloom thinning
      - More time consuming
      - Yield, sugars, vine size and hardiness may be improved
Cluster Thinning

- Post Fruit Set Thinning
  (75% canopy development)
  - Remove all clusters from shoots less than 12 inches long
  - Leave one cluster per shoot for shoots 12 inches to 24 inches long
  - Leave two clusters per shoot for shoots more than 24 inches long
Leaf Removal

Two goals to be accomplished

1. Improved air movement and spray penetration
2. Improve sunlight exposure to the fruit and basal buds
Leaf Removal

- On the sunny side of the canopy
  Is completely avoided or very minimal

- On the shady side of the canopy
  Two or three leaves are removed around the base of each shoot or cluster
Leaf Removal

- Should be performed after fruit set.
- Should be avoided after véraison as this may lead to fruit sunburn.
Shoot Hedging and Skirting

- Removal of shoots that grow beyond their allocated space.
  - Hedging
    - Used on upward trained shoots (VSP, Smart Dyson or Scott Henry)
  - Skirting
    - Used on downward trained shoots (High Cordon or Geneva Double Curtain)
Shoot Hedging and Skirting

- When
  - Shoots grow beyond their allotted space
  - They impede daily vineyard practices
  - Should not be done after séraison
Cheers!!!