

Grapevine Trunk Diseases

Poor sanitation is dramatically shortening the lives of vines in California.

On May 12, 2016 the Vineyard Team hosted Dr. Richard Smart at a Tailgate meeting in Greenfield at Scheid Vineyards. Dr. Smart's message was clear- we must do more in California to protect and restore vines infected with trunk disease pathogens.

Key points:

- Grapevine Trunk Diseases (GTD) are caused by a host of fungi including *Eutypa*, *Botryosphaeria*, and Petri disease.
- The particular organism or organisms is not important as all kill the vine in a similar fashion and are controlled in the same way.
- The pathogens are present on the vines and enter through pruning wounds.
- The best strategy for managing trunk diseases is the Timely Trunk Renewal protocol (TTR):
 1. Mark vines as dead (D), missing (M), or symptomatic (S).
 2. Check root system health. A weak or diseased root system is not worth using for trunk renewal.
 3. Remove dead plants.
 4. Train up suckers for all symptomatic plants and surrounding vines.
 5. Cut out all diseased tissue.
 6. Make cuts to the trunk at a 45° angle and facing south.
 7. All pruning wounds must be painted with some form of sealant.
 - Dr. Smart recommends latex paint with fungicide added.
 8. Remove diseased wood and canes from the vineyard and burn it.
- Timely Trunk Renewal should begin as soon as disease is found in the vineyard.

For a full explanation of the TTR see this article by Dr. Smart about Timely Trunk Renewal from *Practical Winery and Vineyard*:

[Timely Trunk Renewal to Overcome Trunk Disease](#)

The slide show from Dr. Smart's presentation can be found here:

[Timely Trunk Renewal a New Protocol to Help Protect Grapevines from Trunk Disease, and to Restore Health](#)