Muscadine Trellis Systems
Paul E. Sumner, Extension Engineer

Spacing of rows should be 12 feet apart and 300 to 500 feet in length. Allow 30 feet minimum at ends and breaks for equipment turn arounds.

Recommended trellis construction is the single wire system. Line post should be spaced 20 feet apart. Plant vines next to line post to reduce crop load to the trellis wire. Crop load is the total weight of the fruit, shoots and trunks that are supported by the structure. A trellis for a vineyard should support up to 7 lb/ft of fruiting wire.

Here are the general specifications for a one-wire trellis with wire located at 5 feet above ground level.

POST

- Wooden treated posts are preferred. (CCA - chromated copper arsenate, Penta - pentachlorophenol). Do not use creosote or oil-impregnated pentachlorophenol (may cause damage to root stocks) Do not use brushed-applied chemicals or dipped for short periods in wood preservatives.
- Line Post - 8 feet long by 4 inches in diameter. Drive 3 feet into ground with a post driver.
- End Post - 9 feet long by 5 inches in diameter. Drive 4 feet into ground with one inch offset from the direction of pull at the top of the post. To achieve a 1" lean after driving, a 9 foot post should be leaned 2\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches.

WIRE

- 9 gage galvanized or 12\(\frac{1}{2}\) gage High-Tensile Fence Wire (Initial tension 250 lbs).

STAPLES

- 1\(\frac{3}{4}\) " x 9-gage galvanized (60 staples per pound).
- Straddle the wood grain.
- Rotate staples 45° off vertical
- Double staple on rises or in dips and on end posts
- Do not drive staples home into the wood. (Will increase friction and prevent uniform stretching).

END POST ASSEMBLIES
Failure of anchor-post assemblies may occur by:

- Improper Design
- Brace span too short
- Brace member too light
- Toe nailing on brace gives way
- Brace set too low on end and brace posts
- Posts set too shallow in ground
- Poor quality post and brace material
- Wires not properly attached to the anchor posts

Figure 1. Horizontal Brace Assembly.

Figure 2. Tie Back Brace Assembly
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