

## Kicker cane continues

cant, we may want to leave one or both kicker canes to make up for the lost fruit. At the same time we assess cutworm activity. Cutworm is a little bug that crawls out onto canes and spurs at night, eating the tender, emerging buds. Instead of spraying a harsh insecticide that kills everything else, including the beneficial predatory insects, we take the organic approach of “leaving spare parts”, as Ted likes to call it. By leaving kicker canes, we can logically assess the damage, and leave more buds, if necessary. In cool springs, another insect, the thrip, can become a problem. Cool weather slows the growth of shoots, allowing the thrips to thrive on the tender green tissue, resulting in stunted, damaged shoots which may not bear fruit. If the population is high during bloom, they may

disrupt the fruit set. By leaving kicker canes, once again, we are able to sustain some damage, and approach the problem organically. Sulfur sprays bother thrips, so we can spray more often, or more heavily, instead of an insecticide which kills everything. Wet, cold weather during bloom can also ruin fruit set. Normally the kicker canes would have been removed long before bloom, but in an unusually cool year,

we might decide to leave them on longer.

With a slightly different approach, Evans Creek Vineyard leaves kicker buds. They like to prune their whole vineyard to three bud spurs, then come back near bud break, and cut them to two bud spurs. This shock helps delay bud break, on a site where every day can matter, due to a shortage of frost protection water and the serious threat of very cold nights. ■

*Photo: Jeff Schultz using a power flail to chop up the prunings.*



flatbed truck. Nowadays, of course Port Orford cedar has been pretty much logged out and it's rare if not impossible to find it in a lumber store. But for those who know what to look for, you can still find healthy stands of it near Grayback Campground.

If you have the time, plan to spend several days. Visit the wineries. Hike a few trails. See the Oregon Caves. In the evenings, enjoy the campground's impressive post and beam shelter on the banks of Sucker Creek. It has a massive fireplace constructed of local river rock, and a nearby amphitheater provides a pleasant stage for programs presented by the Forest Service on Friday and Saturday nights. Or just laze away in front of your campfire while listening to the sounds of the creek. On the other hand, if time is limited and you still want to enjoy the ambience of a backwoods camp, think about ordering take-out from King's Chinese Restaurant on the Redwood Highway in Cave Junction for an idyllic picnic under the pines.

For additional information, ask at the tasting room or call the Forest Service at 800/280-2267. Enjoy. ■

*Photo: Grayback Creek at the campgrounds.*



*Photo: Grayback campground entrance.*