



**MISTY
VALLEY
NURSERY**

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008



REX'S PRACTICAL TIPS #23

When to Plant?

Soon it will be planting time again. Every year we get asked by numerous clients about the correct time for planting.

After many years of being associated with new vineyard plantings, I have become increasingly convinced that the best time for planting a new vineyard is just after the vines natural break of dormancy. That's say 1-2 weeks after mature vines normally break bud.

Of course not everyone can plant at this time but if you can, the influence of rising soil and air temperatures and the absence of any water logging go a long way to ensuring even establishment of vines and rapid early season growth. Often vines planted in the late winter appear to be checked with slower growth than of vines planted at an optimal time.

When planting in heavy soils it's better to delay planting until all danger of water logging has passed. On days, vines planted during early October generally out perform those planted earlier. All of these comments assume that water supply is adequate.

Remember also that a newly planted vine cannot pull in water from a distance. It can quickly exhaust the moisture in its root zone. The wetted zone under the dripper must contact newly planted vine roots. Your drip lines should be set up so that the drippers can be moved away from the vine as the vine matures. This reduces the possibility of collar rots.

Fertilizer In The Planting Hole

I have recently read a publication by Fruited suggesting that Agroblen is safe when applied "directly within the root zone" of young vines. **We repeat our earlier advice that we are unaware of any inorganic fertilizer that is entirely safe in direct contact with vine roots.** Even blood and bone is now high risk.

It seems that some blood and bone available in new Zealand is "stretched" with chicken manure.

This is fatal to young vines.

Freight

One of the challenges we have faced this year is the effect of skyrocketing freight charges. The cost of getting your vines to you is on the up.

In order to reduce the impact of increased freight, where possible we are consolidating all orders into Central Otago, Canterbury, Marlborough & Hawkes Bay.

As a result, it may take a day or two after arrival for your order to be unpacked. Please check with the coolstore operator before going in to pick up your order.

Remember that others who don't charge for freight have already built an average cost into their vines.

Varieties available NOW

Cabernet franc
Cabernet sauvignon
Chardonnay
Gewurztraminer
Malbec
Merlot
Petit verdot
Pinot Gris
Pinot noir
Riesling
Sangiovese
Sauvignon blanc
Syrah
Uzbekistan Muscat
Viognier

ORDERS FOR 2009

It's just amazing how the seasons roll around so quickly. We will be finalizing our grafting plan in the next few weeks.

If you are likely to need vines for next year, let us know so that we are able to graft the variety, clone and rootstock combination for your site.



Misty Valley Website

Now online

www.mistyvalley.co.nz

for years of Practical Tips at your fingertips.

GROW WITH US

Call Rex Sunde or Gillian Howard to discuss your requirements

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