



REX'S PRACTICAL TIPS #6 Winter 2005

Planting

Here's some planting tips to follow on from our May mailer - if you missed it, let us know and we'll send one to you.

You have made a major investment in your land, vines, posts, wires and irrigation equipment. Here are a few basic tips on how to plant and establish your vineyard.

REMEMBER THE FOUR W'S

Weeds, Water, Wind, Wabbits.

It's a precious vine, not a weed.

TIMING

Timing of planting is really a local issue but here are some guidelines. Remember there are few absolute rules, common sense must prevail.

If frost is not a problem.

Where frost is not an issue and soils are well drained and warm quickly in the spring, early planting prior to bud burst appears to have significant advantages over later planting. This is generally seen in the quality of the cane laid to the wire in the first season.

On heavier soils that remain cool until late spring, I favour later planting so that the vines come away quickly without being checked.

If frost is a problem.

In some districts and on some sites, vineyard planting is often delayed until

October to November to avoid frost damage. Where delayed planting is the only practical way of reducing frost damage, you need to accept that this reduces the growing season of your vine, and production of fruitful wood for the following vintage may not be possible.

Machine or hand planting?

The rules for planting are more or less the same, regardless of whether the vines are hand planted or machine planted. Both methods have their advantages and disadvantages. Both give poor results when the soil preparation is sub standard.

Getting the vine in at the right depth and with the right soil around its roots is the key.

Regardless of the length of your vine, it must be planted so that when the soil has settled, the graft union is 100 to 150mm above the soil surface. The roots must be horizontal to the surface.



Good placement of the roots is essential.

Varieties Available

If you need vines for 2006, your order needs to be with us soon so that we can ensure budwood availability.

Variety	Available	
	'05	'06
Cabernet franc	✓	✓
Cabernet sauvignon	✓	✓
Chardonnay	✓	✓
Dolcetto		✓
Flora	✓	✓
Gamay noir		✓
Gewurztraminer	✓	✓
Malbec	✓	✓
Merlot	✓	✓
Montepulciano		✓
Nebbiolo		✓
Petit verdot		✓
Pinot blanc		✓
Pinot gris	✓	✓
Pinot noir	✓	✓
Pinotage		✓
Riesling	✓	✓
Sangiovese		✓
Sauvignon blanc	✓	✓
Semillon		✓
Syrah	✓	✓
Tannat		✓
Viognier	✓	✓

Number of vines	Standard certified grade (Elisa)	Premium certified grade (PCR)
<100	\$6.00	\$6.50
101-500	\$5.35	\$6.25
501-5,000	\$5.10	\$5.60
5,001-10,000	\$4.90	\$5.40
10,001-50,000	\$4.50	N.A.
>50,000	P.O.A	N.A.



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