



REX'S PRACTICAL TIPS #5 Autumn 2005

Site Preparation

Believe me! The effort you put into site preparation and planting of your new vineyard becomes your personal signature for the rest of your vineyards' life.

The tips in this newsletter relate to site preparation – keep an eye open for our June mailer, for tips on planting.

If young vines are stressed or checked early in their life, they seldom recover sufficiently to reach their full potential. If you want your vineyard to perform at it's potential:

- Get the soil environment right first
 - Plant every vine with care and attention to detail
- Remember that the first season is critical – avoid stress
 - Remember the "Four W's":
Wind, Water, Weeds, Wabbits.

GET THE SOIL ENVIRONMENT RIGHT

Your soil is the hidden environment and often the forgotten one. There are so many things that can go wrong down there. If you do nothing else but get the soil right, most other things will fall into place.

Soil Nutrition

You only get one chance to establish the correct nutritional balance. Soil amelioration is always the most effective when done on a broadacre and

incorporated basis prior to planting. I strongly recommend that you contact a *qualified* soil nutritionist prior to planting, to determine what adjustments your soils may require. A soil expert will give you excellent advice about your pre-plant requirements, and potentially save you thousands of dollars in post planting fertiliser costs.

Doing pre-plant incorporations places the right elements *directly in the root zone* and provides a *reservoir* for future years' root expansion.

A tip – Get your nutritionist to check the subsoil Aluminium levels, especially on heavy soils or in damp patches. Many NZ soils have high Al levels. The effects of this toxic element can often be overcome with gypsum.

Drainage

As growers push out the boundaries of their vineyards, high levels of land utilization have seen heavier soils increasingly planted.

How the wheel turns.

100 years ago when the Dalmations settled on the heavy clays of West Auckland (because they couldn't afford better soils), they quickly realized that good drainage was their prime asset. They rarely lost vines to root rots or opportunistic pathogens because they drained their low spots.

Varieties Available

Orders for planting 2006 need to be with us before the end of May to ensure that we can source the correct budwood for your site.

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.



MISTY VALLEY NURSERY

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