



## PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS

We pride ourselves on the quality of the vines we deliver to you.

To get the best result for your vineyard establishment it's important that the planting process is done correctly.

Our 30 years of experience in nursery and vineyards has gone into compiling the planting advice below which we highly recommend you read well before embarking on your planting.

### VINEYARD SITE PREPARATION

Soil and irrigation preparation is the first important step to preparing your new vineyard. Following are a few tips from Chalmers that will benefit the establishment of your new vines:

- The vineyard site should be prepared well ahead of the scheduled planting time.
- Ideally you should have soil tests, especially if the site has been farmed before, to check for any contaminants and inform which applications you might need to improve your soil prior to planting.
- We recommend applying base fertilisers and organic matter in the form of composted manure at least 2 to 3 months before planting in so it has time to break down.
- Un-composted manures can cause damage to new plantings as well as introducing weeds. Chicken manure should be used more sparingly than cow manure as it can have a burning effect on new roots.
- Having a clean, aerated and pre-fertilised vine line at planting will ensure the best possible results.
- We suggest preparing the vine line with organic soil amendments such as seaweed or other biological soil stimulants that are readily available from fertiliser agents.
- Give the planting site an irrigation a few days ahead of planting to wet the profile. This will help prevent the surrounding dry soil from wicking out the moisture around the newly planted vines.



## HOW TO PLANT CONTAINER GROWN VINES

A guide to receiving, handling and planting container grown vines from Chalmers.

### What we do on our end:

- Container grown vines are watered, trimmed, graded and packed into vented plastic bins on the day of despatch.
- Before they leave the nursery they are watered to the point of flushing to ensure optimum moisture for shipping.

### What to do on your end:

- If you are picking the vines up from a Depot and you don't have a covered trailer, you'll need to make sure the vines are protected from the wind with something like a pallet across the top of the bin. Just the top bin if they are stacked 2 high. Definitely do not use something like plastic as the vines must be able to breathe. They just need protection from the wind while travelling.
- Do not leave bins of vines inside a shed for any longer than 1 day. Ideally they should be placed in the shade of a tree outside.
- If you're not ready to plant, the vines will require daily watering. Hand water evenly with a shower nozzle ensuring all plants are getting the same amount of water. If it's hot more frequent watering could be required as potting mix can dry out quickly.
- We highly recommend you plant your vines as soon as possible. Because they're packed tightly for despatch airflow is limited and prolonged storage in the bins could lead to disease.
- The best results for vineyard establishment will be achieved if you plant your container grown vines within 2 days of receiving them.

### How to plant your Container Grown vines:

- Chalmers always recommend planting with a water jet, creating a slurry to insert the vine into.
- Plant into a clean, friable vine line which has preferably been irrigated in advance to make the water-jetting easier. This also prevents surrounding dry soil from wicking out the moisture around the newly planted vine.
- Your vines have been trimmed multiple times in their growing process and do not require any further trimming prior to planting.
- We suggest you take the bin or box to the field and plant directly from the bin/box to avoid double handling



- When removing the vines from the bin **DO NOT REMOVE THE VINE FROM THE POT**. The pot needs to stay intact, and roots must remain undisturbed during the planting process.
- Please ensure that the vines are not pulled out of the bin by the stem. **YOU MUST** pinch the stem to the top of the plant band, holding the paper pot and vine stem together, and lift it out so you do not disturb the young roots.
- We suggest you have a dedicated person to remove the vines one at a time from the bin and hand them to the planter
- We highly recommend that the container grown vines be planted into a water jetted slurry drilled to at least 300mm deep.
- Ensure the spray tank you are using to supply the water jet is thoroughly cleansed of any chemical residue and add 1 litre of seaweed solution per 1000 litres of water.
- The planter must place his hand under the pot and carry it to the full depth into the slurry to enable 25-40mm of soil to cover the top of the pot. This is critical because if the pot is not covered with 25-40mm of soil then the moisture will wick out and cause the potting mix to dry out. Do not push the container grown vine to depth, it must be carried down as described above to the correct depth.
- We recommend placing a squared up vine guard on each plant immediately as the vine is planted and push it into the slurry to keep it squared. Place the bamboo stake against the inside corner of the guard which faces the direction of the prevailing winds.
- These very economical, waterproof cardboard vine guards can be purchased from Chalmers Viticulture and delivered with your vines.
- The vine guards give the vine protection for up to 12 months from herbicide and wind damage.
- The bamboo stake can be attached to the cordon wire and used for training the vine to the wire.

## Care after planting:

- Keep soil moist but not too wet, adjusting your watering regime as required.
- It is imperative that there is no weed intrusion along the vine line of these young vines as weeds are always more competitive for moisture than the young vines and are often the reason young plants can fail.
- **DO NOT** apply any nitrogen-based fertilisers for at least a month after planting and then sparingly and frequently.
- There may be multiple shoots emerge from the vine guard, just select the best shoot and break the others off at the top of the guard during your training passes. **DO NOT** lift the vine guard out of the soil as it cannot be replaced into the dry soil and trunks can be cleaned up in the winter when the guards are removed and disposed of.
- The desired shoot should be taped to the bamboo stake with a tapener gun as it grows.



## HOW TO PLANT DORMANT VINES

A guide to receiving, handling and planting dormant, field grown vines from Chalmers.

### What we do on our end:

- Your vines are trimmed to the optimum root length and shoot length before we send them out. DO NOT trim any further root length from the vines prior to planting as you will reduce the carbohydrate reserves in the vine.
- Dormant vines are hydrated and graded into bundles of 25 or 50.
- Each bundle of vines is labelled with the variety and traceability code and we suggest that you keep this information for future reference.
- They are packed into a plastic lined, 2 piece sturdy carton. The liner which is tucked around the vines maintains the moisture for long periods of time. If you are opening the boxes to look at the vines prior to planting please ensure you tuck the liner back around the vines the same way to prevent them from drying out.

### What to do on your end:

- Once you receive your vines the cartons can be stored in the shed out of direct sunlight or in a Coolroom at around 4 degrees until planting. Shed stored vines may shoot if the weather warms up.
- It's not necessary to open the boxes and rehydrate the vines prior to planting if they are planted into a water-jetted slurry.
- DO NOT STORE in direct sunlight

### How to plant your Dormant vines:

- As the vines are in white cartons they can be taken to the field during planting returning any unplanted boxes to the shed at the end of the day
- UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES allow the vines to dry out.
- We recommend that you only unpack and lay out vines than can be planted in the next few minutes. Cover any vines still in the box with the plastic liner or some wet hessian to ensure they don't dry out while planting is happening.
- The planter must hold the roots together at the bottom and carry the roots to the bottom of the slurry then lift the vine back up to the desired planting depth to make sure the roots are all positioned downwards not upwards.
- The vines may be planted to the mark on the trunk which indicates the depth they were planted in the nursery row.



- Please ensure that grafted vines are not positioned with the graft too close to the soil to prevent scion rooting.
- Place a squared up vine guard on the plant immediately as the vine is planted and push it into the slurry to keep it squared. Place the bamboo stake in the inside corner of the guard facing the direction of the prevailing winds.
- These very economical, waterproof cardboard vine guards can be purchased from Chalmers Viticulture and delivered with your vines.
- Vine guards give the vine protection for up to 12 months from herbicide and wind damage.

## Care after planting:

- Give a generous first irrigation after planting then monitor moisture levels. Overwatering can be just as detrimental as under watering
- It is imperative that there is no weed intrusion along the vine line of these young vines as weeds are always more competitive for moisture than the young vines and are often the reason young planting cans fail.
- DO NOT apply nitrogen based fertiliser until about a month or two after budburst and then sparingly and frequently.
- There may be some shoots emerge from the vine guard which can be broken off at the top of the guard. DO NOT lift the vine guard out of the soil as it cannot be replaced into the dry soil and trunks can be cleaned up in the winter when the guards are removed and disposed of.



## VINEYARD ESTABLISHMENT DO'S & DON'TS

### Don't:

- Don't push vines down by trunk when planting, pull or carry them down into a slurry to avoid damage to the vines
- Don't let weeds compete with young vines for moisture or nutrients
- Don't trim the roots of dormant vines shorter than 100mm - the shorter the roots the less growth that you will be able to achieve in the first year.
- Don't use nitrogen fertiliser in the first month after planting
- If you're in a hot region, don't use a tall plastic tube to protect your vine as it can have the opposite effect and act like a mini greenhouse, cooking the young vines.

### Do:

- Check the condition of your soil before planting in case of deficiencies or herbicide contamination
- Invest time and effort in good site preparation before planting
- Plant as early as possible in the season for maximum growth in the first year
- Plant with a water-jet for the best results
- Remove air from around roots when planting
- Monitor moisture closely to avoid over or under watering

## [WATCH THE 2 MINUTE YOUTUBE VIDEO HERE](#)

<https://youtu.be/xEp3gU-30Jw>

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