

# Looking after your grape plants

## FOR ALL YOUNG PLANTS:

- 1 If ground conditions are dry at planting, the plants should be watered immediately after planting and then at regular intervals. Do not overwater your vines when they are dormant.
- 2 To maximise cane development, ensure adequate water within the root zone, especially in the first year of growth.
- 3 NB – delayed planting (i.e. late spring planting) may result in poorer growth rates. Ormond Nurseries accepts no responsibility for vines planted after October 31st.



## AFTER PLANTING:

For optimum growth in your young plants ensure they are kept well watered, well sheltered (if possible), secured to the wire and weed free. Young plants are very susceptible to stress in the first season.

## CAUTION IF UNDER-PLANTING:

Some growers have experienced problems with what appears to be herbicide damage (severely stunting growth and in some cases death of plants) when under-planting older vineyards. Excessive use of Simazine or the like should be avoided. There can be problems with herbicide contamination from older plants that have been cut off and painted with herbicide if new planting is very close. Talk to other growers who have under-planted and seek viticultural advice.

# HI-STEM® Vine

## Planting and Care Instructions

HI-STEM® vines are designed to provide you with healthy grapevines that are cost effective in the vineyard. However, there are some unique characteristics that make the care of your HI-STEM® vine different from the traditional sized vine to which you are accustomed.

- 1 HI-STEM® vines are grafted onto a longer than normal section of rootstock and designed to be high enough to eliminate the need for any bud-rubbing. Weed control is also made easier, as no spot spraying is required over and above a general broad acre weed spray.
- 2 For a 900mm fruiting wire we have found that the graft union of the vine should be 550mm above the ground. Too high and the head of your mature vine will be too high at pruning time, too low and you lose the benefit of weed spray clearance (photo).
- 3 A bamboo stake and an anchor band located at 300mm from the ground is all you need to support the vine and to stop it blowing around in the wind.
- 4 Vine guards are not required as your weed spray will only be in contact with the woody part of the vine.
- 5 During the first season use best practice viticulture. Avoid over-cropping in the early years. Seek professional advice if you have questions.
- 6 HI-STEM® vines require extra watering to avoid drying out during the first season of growth. This is linked to the extra trunk surface area, and explains why we dip them in wax before dispatch. We also recommend a good long soak immediately after planting.
- 7 Avoid bent trunks by keeping your wires tight and installing a bamboo/training stake. Do not remove the bamboo/training stake until 2-3 years after planting.
- 8 During the first growing season, limit the new growth to one shoot and use best practice for young vine training. If in doubt seek independent viticulture advice.



## Bare Root Planting Guide

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# Bare Root Planting

## UPON RECEIVING YOUR PLANTS

- 1 Check the consignment note to make sure all the boxes/bins are accounted for (if more than one). Check the contents of each carton to verify that the correct number of plants has been received. As per your contract, you have 7 days in which to notify us if you have a shortfall or any problems.
- 2 Ensure the vines have not dried out.
- 3 Once you have taken possession of these plants they are your responsibility. We have no control over the treatment they receive after leaving the nursery.
- 4 We recommend that you plant your plants out as soon as possible. Plants that are stored for prolonged periods run the risk of either drying out and/or damage through hypoxia.  
**At all times ensure that the bundles of plants are not allowed to dry out. Cover with damp sacks, wet sawdust or stand in a bucket of water.**
- 5 If you intend to plant out within a few days of delivery, your plants can remain sealed in the boxes/bins in a cool, shady location.
- 6 If immediate planting is not possible we recommend storing your plants in a dry cool-store (3-5°C).

## STANDARD VINE PLANTING

- 1 Either dig a hole (or use a hole-auger) that easily accommodates the roots without causing them to bend up – 200-300mm diameter should be adequate.
- 2 **Plant the vine deeper than required, backfill and avoid J-rooting** by pulling the plant up to ensure the roots are pointing down in to the soil. Pack firmly to get rid of any air pockets. The graft union should be 150mm from the soil.
- 3 If planting by machine, ensure the graft union is not buried, preferably it should be 150mm above ground level.



## HI-STEM® VINE PLANTING

- 1 Either dig a hole (or use a hole-auger) that easily accommodates the roots without causing them to bend up (200-300mm diameter should be adequate) so that the vine can be pulled up to the required height.
- 2 Backfill and **avoid J-rooting** by pulling the plant up to ensure the roots are pointing down in to the soil. Pack firmly to get rid of any air pockets. The graft union should be 550mm from the soil. When machine planting, this process should also be followed.
- 3 Attach the vine to a bamboo training stake with an anchor band.
- 4 There is no need to use vineguards as vines are grafted onto a longer than normal section of rootstock. Any new growth is well above the spray zone so the plant will not be damaged by any herbicides.
- 5 During the first growing season, limit the new growth to one shoot until reaching the wire, then seek independent advice about best training practice for young vines on your particular site.

**Ormond Nurseries Ltd does not recommend the use of any dip, mulch/compost or fertiliser that may come in direct contact with the plant's root system.**

Do not place fertiliser or mulch/compost or any other additives in the hole with the vine's roots at planting.

There should be no additives other than soil and water. Some growers have experienced problems by using dips and fertilisers in the hole with the vine's roots at planting, resulting in vine death or severe stunting in the first year of growth. Any foreign element that is in direct contact with the young vine's roots has the potential to kill or severely impair the growth of young vines.

**Seek independent advice regarding fertiliser application.**

- DO NOT store plants where apples are being, or have been, stored. Ethylene gas given off by apples in storage can cause rapid deterioration of grape plants, even when stored in plastic lined containers.
- If planting in ground which has recently been in pasture, be aware that there may be a problem with grass grub/white fringed weevil ringbarking and possibly killing young plants. Seek advice regarding insecticide required to combat the grass grub/white fringed weevil.
- Once a box/bin has been opened, make sure you check that the plants are kept moist and that the plants are wrapped as found in plastic provided. Regular checks of your plants are essential (if not planting immediately).