



Planting Guide Tall Vines

Ref: Form-263

Please follow these guidelines to help ensure that your tall vines grow to their full potential.

For queries please contact the sales department:

Riversun Nursery Ltd

PO Box 1199

Gisborne 4040

Freephone: 0800 11 37 47

Email: info@riversun.co.nz

www.riversun.co.nz

1. CHECK ORDER

- Please check tall vines supplied match documentation sent with consignment.
- Vines are supplied in **bundles of 25**, please contact Riversun if you are short.
- Call Riversun immediately if you are not **completely satisfied** with any aspect of your consignment:
 - Damage in transit
 - Delays from dispatch to receipt (more than 4 days)
 - Appearance of vines

2. STORAGE

- Ideally, the vines should be planted soon after you receive them.
- Cartons are **not** designed to resist moisture uptake so please do not leave in the rain or on damp ground.

If you must store vines, ensure they have:

- Sealed packaging – keep vines in cartons with plastic liners closed to prevent dehydration (they are perforated to prevent ethylene build-up).
- Ideally, use a dedicated coolstore, set between 3°C and 5°C. Ensure coolstore is completely clean and there is no other plant material in storage (ethylene gas can be fatal to vines).
- Alternatively, from July to end September store vines in a shady cool area, eg. south side of shed, for no more than 5 days from receipt. From end September onwards plant immediately – storing vines outside during this time is **not** recommended. **Temperature inside packaging mustn't exceed 8°C.**
- Check regularly that vines are moist. (Note: coolstores dehydrate plant material).

Once vines have warmed up do not re-coolstore.

3. BEFORE PLANTING

- Ensure site is well prepared:
 - Weeds under control;
 - Rows ripped and any cultivation completed;
 - Soil tested for nutrient levels and fertilised if needed; and
 - Posts, wires and irrigation installed.
- If replanting an existing block with a history of virus, it's important to have treated old vines with Imidicloprid immediately after harvest and remove vine stump and as much root as possible 6-8 weeks later.
- Beneficial dips may help establish vines – eg. Mycorrmmax or Superzyme.

4. PLANTING

A delivery of one combination e.g. Merlot 481 on 101-14 may be made up of rootstock and scion from several different sources. The information relating to the source of material is contained in the graft lot number underneath the barcode.

- **Riversun recommends planting each graft lot separately and mapping the block** i.e. marking and recording the location of the first and last vine of each graft lot. Then if there are ever any differences in performance, Riversun can isolate the original source of the rootstock and scion for the vines in question i.e. Merlot 481 on 101-14 planted 3 September, GL 297; 1st vine – Row 5, Bay 3, Vine 2; last vine – Row 10, Bay 20, Vine 1.
- Ensure vines do not dry out while awaiting planting.
- Prepare a hole of adequate depth and diameter to allow the roots to radiate without touching the sides or bottom of the hole.
- Hold vine in hole slightly below the correct level and push soil around the root system. Before firming down, give vine a gentle pull so that it is at the correct depth and roots are pulled into the correct downward angle.

*Remember, you are **transplanting** a living plant, not a dormant stick! The sides of the holes should be broken for good root penetration.*

- Plant vine in line with posts.
- Plant with soil up to 150mm from where roots start. Don't plant vine so that union is close to the present or future soil level (Scion rooting can occur).
- Firm soil around vine and leave a small mound of soil around base of vine to compensate for settling. Failure to do so can result in water ponding at the base of the vine.
- For tall rootstock vines we recommend planting vines deeper than needed and pulling up to the measured height to suit fruiting wire.
- Vines should **not be planted down the back of a spade** (as with pine trees) as the roots are longer and will not be positioned correctly.
- A stake is only necessary for 2-budded tall vines. Tall scions can be wrapped onto the fruiting wire and tied off at the end. Ensure some tension is applied to keep trunk straight.
- We recommend removing all buds along the wire soon after bud burst (by hand), retaining four or five shoots below the wire at the head of the vines. This will promote excellent cane growth during the year and provide suitable canes for a half crop in the second season.
- Although vines are waxed to prevent drying out, for the best results ensure that the vines are watered immediately and regularly as tall vines have higher water requirements than standard vines.
- Apply slow release fertiliser once planted around the base of the vines – 50 - 100gms of Agriblend or Nitrophoska mixed into the soil; or 150 - 200gms (1 cup) of blood & bone worked into the top 10cm of soil.
- A suitable mulch around the vine would also conserve moisture and suppress weed growth competition.

5. IMMEDIATE CARE

- Recently planted vines need irrigation, even in winter (trials conducted at Riversun showed a 5% increase in dead vines when vines were not watered for four days and after 8 days with no water, a 25% death rate).
- Provide vines with sufficient water to moisten soil right down to the roots. Take care to prevent overwatering.
- Regularly check soil around a few vines to ensure adequate moisture.
- Side dressings of fertiliser can boost growth in the first season.
- Disbud scion trunks during normal vineyard passes.
- Shoot-thin 2 budded vines early and train new shoots regularly to prevent wind damage and to maximise growth.
- Maintain a high standard of weed control - **very important** during vine establishment as weeds compete directly with vines for moisture and nutrients.

Residual herbicides should be used with care, if at all. Many are not registered for use in vineyards with young vines and can cause damage. It is preferred to use contact or translocated products – application will need to be repeated. A combination of shrouded nozzles and spray guards (plastic or cardboard) work well to protect the vines after planting. Care should be taken to prevent contact with the young vine. Please notify Riversun of any issues or problems as soon as possible, including number of vines affected and the graft lot number.