

- Ensure that the vines do not dry out while waiting for planting.
- Prepare a hole for each vine. The hole should be twice the depth of the planting depth and of adequate diameter to allow the roots to radiate out without touching the sides of the hole. Hold the vine in the hole at a little below the correct level and push soil around the root system, before firming down, give the vine a gentle pull upwards so that it is at the correct depth and the roots are pulled into the correct angle. Remember that you are transplanting a living plant, not a dormant stick! The sides of the holes should be broken for good root penetration.
- Plant the vine in line with the posts.
- Plant with the soil up to half way between the roots and the graft union. Do not plant the vine so that the union is close to the present or future soil level. (Scion rooting can occur.)
- Firm the soil back around the vine and leave a small mound of soil around the base of the vine to compensate for the soil settling. Failure to do this can result in water ponding at the base of the vine.
- 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.

6. Machine Planted Vines

- Ground preparation for machine planting is absolutely critical and the contractor should be consulted 12 months before planting.
- Use an experienced reliable contractor.
- Dig carefully around a few vines every now and then during planting and check the depth and position of roots.
- Vines should be planted slightly deeper and pulled up by hand to position the roots correctly (**not pushed down**).
- Make sure that the posting and the irrigation follow immediately after planting so that the water can be turned on as soon as possible.
- Set the deadlines with your contractors.

7. Immediate Care

- Recently planted vines often need irrigation – even in winter.
- Provide the vines with sufficient water to moisten the soil right down to where the roots are located. Care should be taken to prevent over watering.
- Regularly check the soil around a few vines to ensure they have adequate moisture.
- Side dressings of fertiliser can boost the growth in the first season.
- Train new shoots regularly to prevent wind damage and to maximise growth.
- Maintain a high standard of weed control. Remember grape and grass (weed) roots do not mix. Weed control is very important during vine establishment. Trials last year showed a 50% reduction in vine top growth where weed competition was only moderate.

Residual herbicides should be used with care. Many are not registered for use in vineyards with young vines and can cause them damage. It is preferred to use contact or translocated products. Application of these 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. Any issues or problems should be notified in writing as soon as possible including the number of vines affected and the graft lot number.

Riversun Dormant Vines

Guide to Planting Dormant Vines



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Planting Dormant Grafted Grapevines

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You have now received your quality grapevines from Riversun. Here is a guideline to help ensure that these vines provide you with complete satisfaction by growing to their full potential.

1. Check Order

- Please check that the vines supplied match the documentation sent with the consignment.
- Call Riversun immediately if there are any discrepancies, or if you are unhappy with any aspect of your consignment – ie:
 - Damage in transit
 - Delays from dispatch to receipt (more than 3 days)
 - Appearance of vines

2. Carefully Store

- Ideally, the vines should be planted soon after you receive them.
- If you have to store the vines, they must have:
 - Sealed packaging - keep the vines in the Riversun cardboard boxes with plastic liners closed to prevent the vines from dehydrating (they are already perforated to prevent ethylene build up).
 - Cool and shade.
 - Ideally a dedicated coolstore should be used - set to between 3°C and 5°C. Take care that the coolstore is completely clean and there is no other plant material in storage (ethylene gas can be fatal to vines).
 - Alternatively, store the vines (for 7 - 10 days) before planting in an area that is shaded and cool, eg: south side of shed. Temperature inside the carton must not exceed 8°C. Do not re-coolstore.
- Check regularly that the vines are moist. (Note: coolstores dehydrate plant material.)
- The cardboard boxes are designed to resist moisture uptake, however do not leave in the rain or on damp ground – they are not waterproof!

3. Before Planting

Ensure that your site is well prepared:

- All weeds should be under control.
- The rows ripped and any cultivation completed.
- Soil tested for nutrient levels and fertilizer applied (if needed).
- Posts, wires and irrigation (if needed) installed.
- It is preferable to delay planting until preparation is completed rather than planting prematurely.
- Old vine stumps should be removed if replanting a vineyard. If this is not possible they should be treated with Translocated herbicide. Care should be taken to not use other products because they can affect new vines.

4. Vine Inspection

- Check the vines as you break open the bundles:
 - Look at the root ball to determine if all the roots are sound and the vines made good root growth while in the nursery (First Grade vines: minimum of three strong roots and minimum diameter 2.5 mm, well spaced).
 - Look at the stem for any damage or soft tissue (indications that a wood pathogen is present).
 - Look at the graft union to determine if it is sound and strong.
 - Look at the size (diameter) of the top shoots (now trimmed) to determine the extent of growth achieved while in the nursery (First Grade vines: minimum 5mm diameter measured at widest point of basal shoot.)
 - Vines are supplied in bundles of 50, please contact Riversun immediately if you find a shortage.

5. 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.
- It is worth 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