



# Planting Guide Dormant Grafted Grapevines

Ref: Form-258

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

For queries please contact the sales department:

Riversun Nursery Ltd

Freephone: 0800 11 37 47

PO Box 1199

Email: [info@riversun.co.nz](mailto:info@riversun.co.nz)

Gisborne 4040

[www.riversun.co.nz](http://www.riversun.co.nz)

## 1. CHECK ORDER

- Please check vines supplied match documentation sent with consignment.
- Vines are supplied in **bundles of 50**, please contact Riversun if you are short.
- Call Riversun immediately if you are not **completely satisfied** with any aspect of your consignment.

<b>WHAT IS A FIRST GRADE VINE?</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. GRAFT UNION IS STRONG &amp; HEALTHY.</li><li>2. AT LEAST TWO DORMANT BUDS ABOVE THE GRAFT UNION.</li><li>3. ROOTSTOCK THICKNESS IS A MINIMUM OF 7MM BELOW THE GRAFT UNION.</li><li>4. ROOTMASS SHALL HAVE AT LEAST THREE STRONG ROOTS, 2MM IN DIAMETER, EVENLY DISTRIBUTED.</li><li>5. STEM HAS NO DAMAGE OR SOFT TISSUE.</li></ol>
------------------------------------	--

## 2. STORAGE

- Vines should be planted soon after arrival.
- Cartons are designed to resist moisture uptake, but please do not leave in the rain or on damp ground – they are **not waterproof!**

If you must store vines, ensure they have:

- Sealed packaging – keep vines in Riversun 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, store vines (no more than 5 days) before planting in a shady cool area, eg. South side of shed.  
**Temperature inside carton 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 (if needed) installed.
- If replanting an existing block with a history of virus, it's important to treat 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. Mycorrmx 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; 1<sup>st</sup> vine – Row 5, Bay 3, Vine 2; last vine – Row 10, Bay 20, Vine 1.
- Ensure vines do not dry out while awaiting planting.

### Planting by hand

- Prepare a hole twice the depth of the vine and of adequate diameter to allow the roots to radiate without touching the sides 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 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 halfway between top of roots & graft union. 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.
- 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.

### Machine planted vines

- Ground preparation for machine planting is absolutely critical and the contractor should be consulted 12 months before planting.
- Use an experienced and 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**).
- Ensure posting and irrigation follow immediately after planting so water can be turned on ASAP.
- Set deadlines with contractors.

## 5. IMMEDIATE CARE

- Recently planted vines often 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.
- Single-shoot early and train new shoots regularly to prevent wind damage and to maximise growth.
- Maintain high standard of weed control. Remember, grasses and weeds are competitive and will slow vine growth. Weed control is very important during vine establishment. Riversun trials showed a 50% reduction in vine top growth where weed competition was only moderate.

*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.*