



Guide To Planting Potted Grafted Grapevines

Ref: Form-256

Potted vines will achieve excellent growth, equal to one-year-old dormant vines provided they receive the extra care and attention needed. Please follow these guidelines to ensure your vines grow to their full potential.

For queries please contact the sales department:

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1. CHECK ORDER

- Please check vines supplied match documentation sent with consignment.
- Call Riversun immediately if you are not **completely satisfied** with any aspect of your consignment ie. appearance of vines; damage in transit or delays from dispatch to receipt is more than 4 days.

2. BEFORE PLANTING

- Ideally, the vines should be planted soon after you receive them.
- Keep the vines moist at all times.
- Ensure site is well prepared (it is preferable to delay planting until preparation is completed rather than planting prematurely):
 - 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. Care should be taken to not use other products because they can affect new vines.
- Dig hole in line with the posts.
- Soak plant **thoroughly** either under a sprinkler for a minimum of one hour just before planting or submerge in a water trough or similar for 5 minutes.
- Beneficial dips may help establish vines – eg. Mycorrmmax or Superzyme.

3. 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. Because potted vines are graded and dispatched when ready there may be more than one delivery of a graft lot so planting by delivery date and graft lot will be necessary i.e. Merlot 481 on 101-14, delivery 17 December, GL 297; 1st vine – Row 5, Bay 3, Vine 2; Last vine – Row 10, Bay 29, Vine 1.
- Ensure vines do not dry out while awaiting planting.
- Vines will be supplied in plastic pots (these are reusable and should be returned to Riversun). These must be removed at planting. Remove the pot carefully so as to retain the soil around the roots.
- Place vine in the hole dug so that the top of the potting mix is about 5cm below the soil level.

- Try not to disturb the roots.
- Ensure that the vines are watered immediately and regularly. Irrigation is essential.
- 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.

4. IMMEDIATE CARE

- Maintain a high standard of weed control. This is very important during vine establishment as weeds compete directly with vines for moisture and nutrients.
- Although these vines have been outside for a period of three weeks or more, they have been in a sheltered nursery situation so some form of vine guard is necessary to protect the top growth and graft union. There are two options – vine wraps (coated cardboard) and corrugated plastic vine guards. This protection will also assist in weed control.
- Remove side-shoots regularly to maximise growth.
- Stake the vine as soon as possible. It is very important the vine be staked immediately for the following reasons:
 - The roots are soft and fibrous and will break very easily if there is any movement in the vine at all.
 - Unlike dormant vines, the potted vine already has foliage but no woody root structure to anchor the vine in the wind so even in a light breeze will be enough to limit the root contact with the surrounding soil if the vines are not staked.
- Irrigation is necessary and should be programmed to give the vine regular small amounts of water with the aim of keeping the soil around the vines moist. In the year after planting, when roots have a greater area to draw moisture from, watering periods can be longer and less frequent. Take care to prevent overwatering.
- The vines will require some fertiliser immediately as the supply in the pot will be almost depleted.
- Once planted apply slow release fertiliser 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.

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.

Riversun grapevines are certified to the New Zealand Winegrowers Grafted Grapevine Standard for potted vines.