

POST HARVEST ACTIONS CRITICAL FOR WINE GRAPE PRODUCERS TO CONCLUDE THE CURRENT HARVEST AND ALSO SECURE THE EXCISTENCE OF THE FOLLOWING HARVEST.

*“Critical maintenance services which **cannot be delayed** for **more than 21 days** and are essential to resume operations after the lockdown”.*

The following list of activities would be described as:

- a) Typical to the wine industry.
- b) Critical to be performed in the immediate future.
- c) Could be performed with an allowable risk by adhering to social distancing guidelines.

VINEYARD PROGRAMME:

1. Post-harvest fertilizer:

- Apply nitrogen fertilizer according to growth norms and apply other elements according to soil and/or leaf analysis.
- Apply fertilizers three weeks after harvest.
- Perform soil sampling in order to compile a maintenance fertilizer programme.

2. Post-harvest irrigation:

- Monitor soil moisture levels and irrigate where needed. Vineyards will continue to have an irrigation need- especially vineyards with large canopies.

3. Disease and pest control:

- Post-Harvest spray program is critical to keep inoculum levels low for Downey- and Powdery mildew and will inhibit the occurrence of erinose.
- Mark vines infected with mealybug to be treated in the winter.
- Mark vines infected with leafroll virus and remove as soon as possible.
- Monitor the occurrence of snails and control accordingly.

4. Weed control:

- Perform weed control on perineal weeds without damaging vines.

5. Root pruning actions:

Perform root pruning after harvest in order to alleviate soil compaction.

6. Establishment and management of cover crops:

- Perform seedbed preparation.
- Establish cover crop when suitable rainfall occurs. Type of cover crops should be specified for site and management strategy.

- Fertilize cover crops on the 4-leaf stage in order to achieve good biomass.

7. Soil preparation and drainage (these actions are critical since soils must be prepared at correct soil moisture levels before winter rain):

- Perform soil mapping in areas to be planted to vineyard. These actions should be performed by a knowledgeable Soil Scientist that would be able to advice on correct chemical and physical adjustments that needs to be addressed before planting.
- Perform soil preparation at correct soil moisture levels with the correct implements.
- Install drainage systems in wet soils.

8. New vineyard plantings:

- Remove old vineyard block to be replanted. Remove as much as possible roots, trunks and cordons material from the site to be planted.
- Install infrastructure- irrigation, poles, and anchors for new plantings.

9. Planning:

- Perform record keeping on all vineyard blocks- production, analysis, growth norms, and irrigation schedules.
- Evaluate each vineyard block in terms of profitability, long term strategy and align vineyard removal and planting programme according to market demand.
- Confirm your vine order for 2020 plantings and order vines for 2021 from a reputable nursery.

10. Maintenance:

- Perform maintenance on trellis systems and implements.