

Managing Your Vineyard Manager

by Gerard van Steyn, Dave Rey and Lamorinda Winegrowers Association

	Pruning	Weeds	Shoot Thinning	Nutrition Assessment	Nutrition Adjustment	Irrigation	Irrigation Excess or Deficit Monitoring	Canopy Management	Mildew Spraying	Bird Control	Raccoon Control	Cluster Thinning	Harvest Timing	Harvest	Irrigation Stop Date
What	Prune vines back to 2 buds per spur	Grasses and weeds are actually beneficial!	Thin shoots and laterals	Petiole Test	Interpret petiole test results and apply necessary fertilizer and nutrients	When to start and how much thru season	this is important task, owner should monitor by watching vines	Thin laterals and leaves	Spray for powdery mildew and other diseases and pests	Nets, double sided thin extruded plastic nets are recommended	Electric fence to keep raccoons and other animals from eating grapes	Drop excess fruit, if needed	Taste, test and evaluate	Picking	Stop Irrigation
How Important	Vital	Optional	Vital	Optional	Important	Vital	Vital	Important	Vital, unless you don't have mildew	Vital, if birds eat your grapes	Vital, if varmints eat your grapes	Optional	Vital, for best quality	Vital, for best quality	Important
When	not within 2+ days of rain	Spring as needed (leave clippings in vineyard)	Thin shoots prior to flowering, thin laterals after fruit set	Flowering, also perhaps at veraison	-- organic fertilizer is highly recommended --	Typically start mid May thru June	Throughout growing season.. And don't underwater during flowering!	May thru July	While dormant then Bud break through veraison		After Veraison, when grapes start to get sweet	Veraison or prior	Month+ after veraison		Prior to or when rains commence
How	January thru February is best time	Ideally mow or trim down weeds. Don't use Roundup or other non-organic weedkiller	by Hand	Send Samples to FGL, Dellavale, or other testing lab	below drip emitters or foliar spray (conventional fertilizers are made out of petroleum, and destroy soil life)	Gallons per vine depends on spacing: apprx 8 gallons/week typical for 6' by 6' spacing; 3 gallons/wk typical for 3' by 5' spacing	Look for drooping tendrils (too little water) or excessive growth (too much)		Spray at least every 2 weeks, if powdery mildew is a problem	clip nets on top and bottom	Inexpensive portable electric fence and plastic posts, circling vineyard.. Very easy to install	Most LWGA vineyards will not need to do this	Taste and refractometer		Deficit irrigation before harvest is no longer recommended.. But if you do, then give big drink after harvest
Who Does	Manager	Manager	Manager	Manager or Owner	Manager	Owner or Manager	Owner and Manager	Manager	Manager	Manager	Owner or Manager	Manager	Winemaker and Owner	Winemaker or Owner	Manager or Owner
Who Decides	Manager	Owner	Manager	Owner	Manager	Owner and Manager	Owner	Winemaker, Manager and Owner	Owner needs to get out in vineyard and check for mildew	Owner	Owner	Winemaker, Manager or Owner	Winemaker and Owner	Winemaker or Owner	Owner or Manager

Questions? Email your questions to: gerardvs1@gmail.com

Notes

Owners should walk their vineyards at least once per week... look at growth: check for dry tendrils (too little water) or excessive growth (too much), make sure leaves are healthy green; have your manager teach

you what mildew looks like (yellow spots on leaves, white powder on grapes); after veraison, look to see if birds or varmints are eating your precious grapes - they can clean out a vineyard in a short time!