

## DORMANT BARE ROOTED GRAPEVINES – HANDLING AND PLANTING GUIDE

All information contained here is meant as a **guide only** for the information of growers. It is **not a prescription**, and variations may be necessary under different conditions at different sites according to grower's knowledge and experience. Use of information supplied is at the grower's discretion and risk. KC Nursery accepts no liability for loss due to interpretation or application of this guide.

Dormant bare rooted vines are lifted and graded and packed in June/July depending on conditions. They are stored in cool storage at 1 – 4°C in ventilated bags to enable respiration.

- Vines will be dispatched on the date nominated by the grower. Changes to this date must be notified to the nursery in advance of the dispatch date so that vines can be kept in cold storage until required.
- Vines may break dormancy during transit as transpiration commences. The Respiration rates will be much higher. On receipt open the bins and check for moisture. If the vines are not moist, water them to moist.
- Allow air to circulate by folding the bag closed, not tying it to seal the bag up.
- **DO NOT PUT THE VINES BACK INTO A COOLROOM – THIS WILL KILL THE VINES.**
- Store the vines under cover out of direct sunlight. Check periodically that the vines are moist around the root system.
- Plant the vines as soon as possible after receiving them.
- Prepare the planting strip, make it weed free and moist.
- Planting should occur on cool days and prior to the hot and dry part of the season. **Postpone planting if the weather is going to be excessively hot.**
- Schedule planting for the time that vines normally shoot in your region. Planting when vines in your region are still dormant is risky. Planting in mid winter can result in vine stress and death if the ground is cold and waterlogged or very dry. Conditions have to be perfect for successful planting in the winter.
- **SOIL MOISTURE IS CRITICAL – NOT TOO WET, NOT TOO DRY BUT MOIST.** Over watering will create anaerobic conditions at the root zone and kill the vines. Under watering will stunt growth and eventually kill the vines.
- The planting hole should be big enough to accommodate the vine and the planter's hand grasping the roots, water jet preferred. The hole should be deep enough for the roots to be pointing down. The use of Seasol or a Kelp seaweed extract alternative in the water jet water at label rates will promote early healthy growth.
- The vine should be planted to a depth that is halfway between the base of the vine and the beginning of the trimmed shoot.
- Roots should be trimmed to a handful beneath base of the vine.
- The planting hole should be backfilled, tamped down and any air expelled.
- The vines should be watered in with a wetted area visible 250 mm each side of the vine row and 300 mm deep. The vines should not be watered again until they have a substantial shoot, say 100 mm. Do not overwater.
- A pre-emergent herbicide can be applied after planting, Surflan/Prolan.
- A vine guard may be fitted to protect the vine from herbicide sprays or rabbits.