

## BIODEGRADABLE POTS - HANDLING AND PLANTING GUIDELINES – KC VINE NURSERY

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 growers' discretion and risk. KC Nursery accepts no liability for loss due to interpretation or application of this guide.

Potted vines are acclimatised to outdoor conditions and checked by the nursery prior to dispatch. The plant band is biodegradable and will break down over time. The vines should be planted as soon as possible once received. The nursery recommends use of an anti transpirant prior to planting, and will advise if this has been applied by the nursery pre delivery.

- Inspect the vines to ensure they are in adequate condition after transit (i.e. adequate moisture).
- Potting mix dries out at a rapid rate. If the potted vines cannot be planted immediately, store them in an area protected from the wind but in dappled sunlight, and water to maintain moisture of the potting media. **WATER WELL THE NIGHT BEFORE PLANTING.**
- Soil preparation, total weed control and irrigation must be in place prior to planting.
- Planting should occur on cool days and prior to the hot and dry part of the season. **POSTPONE PLANTING IF WEATHER IS GOING TO BE HOT.**
- Prepare a planting hole approximately 15cm wide by 30 cm deep. **WATERJET PREFERRED.**
- **DO NOT HANDLE THE STEM OF THE VINE.** Remove the vine from the box by **GRASPING THE CONTAINER, NOT THE STEM OF THE VINE.** Remove from the box 2 or 3 at a time.
- Do not remove vines from styrenes in large numbers and lay the vines out leaving them exposed to the sun. Lay out enough to facilitate efficient planting. Act in the best interests of the vine, not the planting contractor
- **HOLD THE VINE BY THE BASE OF THE BAND** (container) and guide it into the slurry. **CUP A HAND UNDER THE BASE OF THE PLANT BAND. DO NOT PUSH THE INTO THE PLANTING HOLE** as obstructions will cause a concertina collapse of the band and damage to the root system.
- Cover the top of the pot with approximately 5cm of soil to prevent rapid evaporation of moisture. If the top of the pot is open to the air, it acts as a wick and will dry the potting media out and kill the vine
- Shovel some topsoil around the base of the vine and press firmly on the soil to expel all air pockets. Air pockets will dry the potting mix and kill the vine.
- Place the vine guards over the young vines to protect them from wind and vermin immediately. **ENSURE THAT THE BASE OF THE VINE GUARD IS BURIED TO A MINIMUM DEPTH OF 5 CM** to prevent the chimney effect.
- Irrigate the vines to help keep the soil around the root system moist to a depth of 45 cm. Irrigations stabilise the soil around the vine The whole row must be moist to cater for planting spacing and dripper emitter location differences As a general rule, short but frequent irrigations are required. **DO NOT WATERLOG SOILS. DO NOT ALLOW SOILS TO DRY OUT.**
- Once the vines are growing, apply small doses of fertiliser. Trace elements may be needed (best as a foliar application but can also be applied via fertigations) Sea weed based preparations are useful as they are high in plant growth hormones. Maintain normal disease vigilance and control.