



LELIENFONTEIN

Wingerdkwekers · Vine Growers

Lelienfontein Planting Procedure

HANDLING AND PLANTING OF NURSERY VINES AFTER UPROOTING FROM NURSERY

Drying out of vines is the biggest cause of failed vine plantings and bad take percentage with trying to establishing a vineyard. It is of utmost importance that the following steps are being followed to limit drying out:

TRANSPORT

- When vines are being collected, the vines must be closed properly (plastic cover) when being transported.
- In case of the vines being transported over a long distance, the vines must be kept moist by watering it regularly.
- Even if the vines are covered with plastic, the means of transport must not stand in the sun for any length of time, temperatures rise quickly under a plastic cover which can cause drying out or heat damage.
- It is much safer to transport vines during the cooler parts of the day.

STORAGE

- In case the vines are being stored before planting, the vines must be preserved in a cool, moist space. This is to slow down budding and prevent depleting of reserves.
- When vines are preserved, roots must be covered with soil.
- Good irrigation is necessary to wash the soil in between the roots. Preserving facilities must be well-drained.
- If the vines are being planted later on, ask your nursery to store vines in cooling room before budburst. This will prevent budburst and depletion of reserves.

PLANTING OF GRAPES

- Vines are planted during the winter (June/July/August).
- Lelienfontein cannot be held responsible for vines dying back that was planted after September 30.
- When vines are being kept in a cooling room, the vines must be put in water for at least 24 hours before planting. It's good practice for vines to stand with roots in water while being planted.
- Don't put any manure or fertilizer in planting holes to prevent damage to roots.
- Cover vines with moist bags during warm weather.
- Vines must not be planted in either to wet or to dry soils. If the soil is to wet, the side of the planting hole must be loosened up with a fork to promote root distribution (also prevent densification of planting hole).
- In the case of dry land vineyards and in very loose soil the vines must be watered individually after planting.



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- Good irrigation after planting is necessary for the soil to compact around the roots (3-4 litres of water per planting hole).
- Planting holes are 30 x 30 x 30 cm. To prevent drying out of soil, don't make too many planting holes before you plant.
- Plant vines with graft plus minus 5 cm above soil surface.
- Moist, loose soil can be thrown back in the planting hole to enhance root distribution.
- Fill the hole halfway with loose soil, compact soil by stamping feet, fill again and stamp feet again.
- After planting the vine must be covered with a heap of soil up until graft to prevent drying out.
- When planting vines, take just enough vines to plant to prevent drying out before the vines are planted.

CUTTING BACK VINES

- Cutting back vines must take place after planting and after the vines have shown signs of growth (the upper buds will burst).
- Keep the straightest shoot and cut the rest back. The shoot being kept may be cut back to two buds.
- In case the vines were covered with soil when planted (moles heap) the soil may be removed to prevent aerial roots.