

Vineyard Work Calendar

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January/February

- Attend meetings to network and to learn more about viticulture production.
- Engage in business planning.
 - Determine financial status of your grape operation; develop budget for the coming season.
 - Outline goals and strategies for coming year.
 - Plan work schedule for coming year.
- Review disease, insect, and weed management strategies.
- Determine supplies on hand/order supplies, including chemicals.
- Check and repair equipment, including sprayers and mowers.
- Build your relations with your buyers.

March/April

- Test soil if you have not before or have not for several years.
- Make needed post/trellis repairs.
- Remove any old, diseased clusters that were missed during fall cleanup.
- Evaluate winter bud and cane damage.
- Prepare to receive and handle new plants.
- Chop and disc ground cover for new plantings.
- Eliminate perennial and biennial weeds before grape bud break. As weeds begin to grow, it's a good time to apply glyphosate (e.g., Roundup) – before your grapes begin to send out shoots from the trunk.
- Apply pre-emergent herbicides to established plantings, according to label directions.
- Train vineyard personnel.
- Begin pruning, starting with the hardiest cultivars first. Pruning ideally should be done late; waiting until the vines bleed when cut will help to delay budbreak, thus decreasing chances of damage from spring frosts. Watch for disease signs and for cane borer damage when pruning. Record pruning weights of representative vines.
- Apply half the recommended amount of any recommended nutrients (refer to soil or tissue tests).
- Plant new dormant vines.
- Check and prepare the irrigation system for the growing season.

May

- Start monitoring soil moisture levels and irrigate if needed.
- Scout for insects that damage buds (grape flea beetles) and young shoots.
- If grape berry moth was a problem last season, place pheromone traps in the vineyard to monitor for their presence.
- For control of phomopsis, anthracnose, powdery mildew, and black rot, lime sulphur with dormant oil sprays should be done as buds just begin to swell. If the buds have burst before you get a dormant spray on, use lime sulphur only, leaving out the dormant oil.
- Start shoot and cluster thinning in late May.
- Cultivate to control weeds in new plantings.
- Mow between rows.

June

- Early June, start training new grape planting as needed; debud any clusters that appear.
- Irrigate as needed, particularly monitoring young vines with shallower roots.
- Spray for phomopsis, black rot, and powdery mildew starting at 1 to 3" shoot growth to just before bloom; repeat according to label until 2 to 4 wks. post-bloom. When choosing fungicides, be sure to check the pre-harvest interval!

AT BLOOM:

- Record bloom time for each variety.
- If severely infested last year at bloom, spray for phylloxera and repeat 7 to 10 days later.
- Apply second half of recommended fertilizer application at bloom.

- Continue weed control in new plantings.
- Remove suckers from base of vines.
- In late June, finish shoot and cluster thinning.
- In late June, shoot position vigorous vines and vines trained to a Geneva Double Curtain system. Keep the shoots spaced so there is minimal overlapping of leaves.
- Continue scouting for diseases and insect pests and apply control measures as needed.
- Mow between rows.
- Second application of glyphosate herbicide may be necessary.

July

- Continue training new plantings.
- Continue pest control program; check the pre-harvest intervals of the pesticides.
- Mow between rows.
- Irrigate as needed.
- Finish shoot positioning.

VERAISON:

- Collect leaf petioles for analysis of vine nutrient level.
- If needed, remove leaves shading fruit, especially yellowed leaves.
- Apply fungicide for bunch rot before installing bird net, if this has been a problem in the past.
- If bird net is being used, it needs to be applied when grape color change starts; check nets several weeks ahead of time for condition. Remove tendrils at top of trellis wire before applying netting.
- Prepare for crop harvest.
 - Line up labor for harvest.
 - Check on supply of buckets, bins, and so on.

August

- Continue training the new planting.
- Check weed control in new plantings.
- Irrigate as needed, but begin tapering off water to harden vines.
- Check fruit maturity – test for sugar content, flavor, and acidity, and start harvesting early cultivars.
- Mow between rows.
- Check vines for signs and symptoms of anthracnose.
- Contact winery/buyer to discuss harvest timing, fruit characters.
- Contact and train harvest personnel.

HARVEST / POST-HARVEST:

- Irrigate as needed, but sparingly, to harden vines.

September

- Begin plans for new plantings next spring; plow ground if it is in grass; treat for white grubs; sow ground cover.
- Continue maturity checking and harvesting.
- Continue disease management strategy if disease pressure has been high.
- Irrigate as needed.
- Clean equipment.

October/November

- Order plants if you plan new plantings next year.
- Remove any diseased fruit from vineyard.
- Repair equipment.

For more information, see <http://sdgrapes.sdstate.edu>



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