

Planting Dormant Vines

The best time to plant dormant vines is late February through the end of June

The vineyard should be irrigated several days prior to planting, as vines need adequate soil moisture from day one.

Prior to planting, vines will need 3-5 days to warm up in a barn or garage, out of direct sunlight. Vines that are shipped in plastic bags, will need to vent either opening the top of the bag or creating two vent holes, while leaving the vines in the bag. When temperatures exceed 65 degrees F, later in the season, plants must be held at ambient temperatures until buds swell. Roots can also be soaked for 12 hours in clean water immediately prior to planting. Plants should be protected from direct sun to prevent them from drying. For rocky sites or sites with no irrigation, the roots should be soaked for 24 hours in clean water, free of pathogens.

At sites with no irrigation, plant very early in the season, Feb-March. Success on non-irrigated sites is not assured.



1. Dig a hole 12-14' deep and wider than root area. Score the sides of the hole.
2. Place the vine in the hole, spreading the roots over a cone of soil, and backfill the hole with the original soil. Mix soil amendments thoroughly into the backfill soil.
3. Tap down soil gently, keeping plant straight and upright.
4. When planted, graft union should sit 4" above soil line.
5. For early plantings, loose soil (free of herbicides) can be mounded over the vine, about 1" above the tip of the plant so none of the plant is showing. The soil protects the buds from temperature extremes as vines come out of dormancy.
6. Irrigate immediately after planting to settle root and remove air pockets.
7. When growth appears, remove soil mound from around the vine, exposing the graft union and install a plant protector.
8. Water weekly, keeping vines moist and well-drained.