



Basic Instructions for Planting Bare-Root Dormant Grapevines

ALL INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE FOLLOWED TO INSURE SUCCESS

Best time to plant dormant vines is late March through the end of April.

Vines need to be planted into a field with adequate moisture. If the field is dry, pre-irrigate several days before beginning planting.

Vines should be allowed to warm up 3 to 5 days in a barn or garage (out of direct sun) prior to planting. Vines that are shipped in plastic bags; either open the top of the bag or create two vent holes, leaving the vines in the bag. When planting late in the season when daytime temperatures exceed 65 degrees F, it is essential that plants be held at ambient temperatures until the buds swell. Soaking only the roots for twelve hours in clean water is an option as well. This should be done immediately prior to planting. Protect vines from direct sun and prevent them from drying.

When planting in very rocky sites and sites without irrigation, vine roots should be soaked for 24 hours in clean water.

On sites with no irrigation, plant in February. Success on non-irrigated sites is not assured.

Planting:

1. Dig a hole with a shovel 12" to 14" deep and wider than the roots when they are spread out. Score the sides of the hole, especially in soils with high clay content.
2. Place the vine in the hole, spreading the roots over a cone of soil at the bottom of the hole. Backfill the hole with original soil free of herbicide residue, large clods or rocks. If soil amendments are used, mix them thoroughly into the backfill soil.
3. Tap down the soil gently as you proceed, while keeping the plant straight and upright.
4. When the hole is filled and tamped down, the graft union should be 4" above the soil line.
5. Loose soil (free of herbicides) must be mounded over the vine. This soil mound should extend about 1" above the tip of the plant so none of the plant is showing. This is essential since the soil protects the buds from temperature extremes as the vine comes out of dormancy.
6. Instead of using the loose soil an option is to use cardboard vine protector tubes. Place the tube over the vine and close the top, like a milk carton. See attached photo for how to secure the plant protector. When the danger of frost is over, open the top of the tube and allow the air and light to get to the new growth.
7. Irrigate right after planting to help settle the soil around the roots and remove air pockets around them.
8. When growth appears, remove the soil mound from around the vine so the graft union is well above the soil line and install a paper vine shelter such as a ½ gallon milk carton. See Item 6 if you use the vine protector.

Water weekly, keeping roots moderately moist in well-drained soil.