



Inland Desert Nursery, Inc.
Washington State Certified Grapevines

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Guidelines for Planting

The following guidelines should be followed in order to assure a successful planting. Many other planting techniques are available, but the majority of growers we deal with have been successful with this system.

Vines should be planted around or before April 1st to assure best results. However, we have had growers successfully plant well into June.

Vines will arrive in bundles of 25. Check that each bundle is labeled correctly, and verify the number of vines in each bundle equals 25. Vines should be trimmed once received. Roots should be trimmed back to fit the hole you are planting in. The tops should also be pruned, saving two buds from the two most desirable canes. (A trimming service is available and passed on at a cost of \$.05/vine). Cut into a small percentage of the vines to check viability of the wood. It is essential that trimming and inspection takes place in a timely manner so that vines do not dry out. Vines should be kept moist and above freezing temperatures during all of these steps. Notify us immediately if any problems are detected.

Ideally, vines should be planted immediately after delivery. If unable to plant right away, trimmed and inspected vines should be kept as cool and dormant as possible up to the time of planting. Two options for storing your vines up to the time of planting:

1. Cold Storage (never below freezing). Remove from cold storage 7-10 days before planting and place in moist sand or shavings to allow vines to acclimate. Do not expose them to direct sunlight.
2. A deep trench on the north (cool) side of a building, with soil covering all but the top 4"-6" of growth.

At the time of planting, double check tags to assure you are planting the correct vines. Take only a portion of the vines from you storage area to the field for planting, unless they can be properly stored there. Once again, do not leave vines in the direct sunlight or allow them to dry out. Vines should be transported to the field in buckets with a few inches of water in the bottom to keep the roots wet. Cover the bucket with a wet cloth if there are intense temperatures and sunlight.

Typical Vineyard spacing is 5x8. Dig planting holes at least 1 foot deep and the width of your trimmed roots. Slightly mound the bottom of the planting hole to assure that roots are positioned downward. Fill in hole with soil free of herbicide residue. If planting lower

grade plants late in the season (after May 1st) leave the top 3rd of the hold unfilled. Fill in hole as growth appears. Tamp soil to prevent any air pockets around the root zone.

If soils are moist, irrigation is not immediately necessary. If irrigating, apply only enough water to wet the root zone and set the vines. Do not over irrigate. Drip emitters should not be placed directly over vine. Dig near the vine to check soil moisture before irrigating. The old farmer's way to check for adequate soil moisture is to dig down to the root zone next to the vines, grab a handful of soil, form a tight ball, and toss back and forth in your hands. If the ball crumbles, irrigate. Do not fertilize until growth has started, and then do so based on the nature of the soil you are farming. In some cases, little or no fertilization may be required the first year.

Growth should be trained up a stake and eventually meet your cordon wire. Many plantings reach the cordon wire after one season of growth.

If farming in a cold-climate region subject to fall frosts, begin limiting growth after August 1st. Lignifying the vines with water deprivation, not to the point of defoliation, is crucial in order to prevent serious fall frost damage. If pushed too late into the fall for extra growth, all of your summer's growth can be lost.

In order to protect vines from winter freezes, vines need to be at least 1 foot deep. It may be prudent to mound around the base of the vine for additional protection from the cold.