

Growing Vignoles

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I. Site selection

- A. South facing slope
 - a. Well drained, great sun exposure
 - b. Erosion issues w/ killdown under rows
- B. Limestone
 - a. So much limestone rock could start a quarry
 - b. Provides a nice pH balance

II. Soil Types

- A. Clinton & Ladoga
- B. Mix of clay, loamy and rocky ground

III. Planting

- A. Generally don't use root feed
 - a. Mike White of Iowa State University Extension recommends the following:
"Applying a cup or so of composted manure in the planting hole before planting in a poor soil would provide somewhat of a starter effect and not burn the roots as synthetic N, K or S could do.
I typically recommend a ½ lb of 13-13-13 or similar fertilizer mix thrown around the base of the plant after planting. This give approx.. 36 – 36 – 36 lbs of N-P-K per acre".
- B. No irrigation (drip or otherwise)
- C. Grow tubes
 - a. Noticed better early growth w/ tubes

IV. Trellis system

- A. VSP Trellis
 - a. Better sun exposure
 - b. Better air drainage
 - c. Less potential for Sour Bunch Rot than high wire system
 - d. Easier for leaf thinning
 - e. Better positioning of fruit for harvest
- B. North/South vs. East/West rows
 - a. Less sun exposure varies ripeness
 - b. Erosion concerns with steep grade of vineyard slope

V. Diseases

- A. Sour Bunch Rot
 - a. Early fungicide sprays most important
 - b. Get sprays on before cluster begin to close
- B. Powdery & Downy Mildew
 - a. Common in our humid climate
 - b. Consistent spray schedule

- C. Anthracnose (limited)
 - a. Small amount of vine loss
 - b. Double trunk

VI. Fertilization

- A. Granular ground feed
 - a. Approx. every 3 years
 - b. 13-13-13
- B. Foliar feed
 - a. Include when spraying fungicides
 - b. 18-18-18
 - c. More effective than granular ground feed during drought

VII. Canopy Management

- A. No shoot thinning
- B. Never cluster thin
 - a. Not necessary, Vignoles never overfruits
 - b. If done before bloom can cause large berries and more compact clusters
- C. Tuck vines in trellis wires
 - a. Exposes fruit for better spray coverage, sun exposure and air drainage
- D. Hedging
 - a. Usually long shoots causing shading and aesthetic appeal
- E. Leaf thinning
 - a. After clusters have begun to close

VIII. Spray program

- A. 7-10 days (short timeframe if wet/humid)
- B. Early sprays are very important
- C. Mix of fungicides
 - a. Lime sulfur, Mancozeb, Captan 80, Nova, Abound, Agri-Fos, Elevate, and Pristine

IX. Vignoles specific concerns

- A. Compact Clusters
 - a. Prevent fungicides from getting in between grapes where molds & mildews form
 - b. Shoot thinning just before bloom can create looser clusters
 - c. Do NOT cluster thin before bloom – can cause larger berries and even more compact clusters
- B. Bull shoots
 - a. Nearly always last shoot on the cordon
 - b. Drain vine vigor (not needed for Vignoles)
 - c. Remove if other shoots lack vigor
- C. University studies on Vignoles and web links (provided in references)
 - a. Provided by Mike White, Iowa State University Extension

X. Harvest Dates

- A. 2011 – Sept. 3rd (normal)
- B. 2012 – Aug. 20th (2 weeks early)

XI. Harvest/Juice Analysis

- A. 2011 – 20°B and pH 3.11
- B. 2012 – 21°B and ph 3.08