NEW ZEALAND WINEGROWERS GRAFTED GRAPEVINE STANDARD

Figure 1. Grafted vines packed in sterile growing media.

Figure 2. Newly grafted vines being dipped in wax for graft wound protection.

ENSURING PREMIUM HEALTHY VINES

The New Zealand Winegrowers Grafted Grapevine Standard (GGS) was developed by New Zealand Winegrowers in 2006.

Its purpose is to provide assurance to growers, viticulturists, winemakers, and other stakeholders, that the grafted grapevines they purchase are considered "high health plants".

The GGS is reviewed annually by a Technical Reference Group that is comprised of industry practitioners, nursery representatives, scientists and members of New Zealand Winegrowers.

WHAT IS THE GRAFTED GRAPEVINE STANDARD?

When you buy GGS Certified vines you know they comply with the requirements of the New Zealand Winegrowers Grafted Grapevine Standard. A vine that carries the GGS certification has met the requirements in the following areas:

- ✔ True to type by variety
- ✔ Testing for GLRaV-3
- ✔ Physical specifications
- ✔ Vine health
- ✔ Management systems

CERTIFIED - TRUE TO TYPE

Rootstock and scion materials have been proven to be true to type at a varietal level using either ampelography or DNA testing carried out by qualified and approved ampelographers and laboratories.

All vines have 100% traceability back to the original mother source.

CERTIFIED - VIRUS STATUS

All mother vines that are used to supply material for the production of grafted grapevines have been 100% virus tested for GLRaV-3 the first year of use. Provided that the vines are clean then a nursery can move to testing its vines a minimum of every five years to ensure it is free of GLRaV-3.

In addition to testing the mother vines, a sample of vines from individual graft lots are chosen by an independent auditor, these are then tested for virus presence prior to lifting from the nursery beds.

CERTIFIED - PHYSICAL SPECIFICATIONS

All vines that are certified to the GGS meet the following physical specifications:

Graft union - able to withstand the stress/bend test with medium pressure in two directions.

Stem length - 250 mm min (base of rootstock to base of the first season's growth).

Thickness - rootstock 7 mm min immediately below graft, and 4mm min for shoot of the scion at the first clear internode.

Curvature - rootstock curvature not angled beyond 10 and 2 o'clock from the perpendicular, scion wood curvature not angled beyond 9 and 3 o'clock from the first bud of the previous season's growth.

Roots - 3 strong live roots (2 growing in opposite directions) with others evenly distributed. Root diameter 2 mm min at 10 mm from the base of the trunk, visually healthy, and if trimmed, at least 75 mm in length.

Buds -2 visible dormant buds above graft union.

Flexibility -rootstocks shall be able to withstand moderate bending in two directions.

Disease and damage - no breakages, cracks, or damage.

NEW ZEALAND WINEGROWERS FACT SHEET

NEW ZEALAND WINE
PURE DISCOVERY

Figure 4. Newly grafted vines being planted in nursery field.

Figure 5. Vine being grafted in V graft machine.

CONTACT

If you have any questions regarding the GGS please contact New Zealand Winegrowers at biosecurity@nzwine.com

CERTIFED - VINE HEALTH

Nurseries producing certified vines will have implemented best practice aimed at reducing/ minimising the spread of fungi with the potential to cause grapevine trunk disease and young vine decline including:

- Pest and disease monitoring and control of source blocks and nursery blocks.
- Application of pruning wounds protection to all cuts.
- Implementation of a nursery soil management plan – including a one year rest period after four years of use as a nursery, and the use of cover crops.

CERTIFIED DOCUMENTATION AND SYSTEMS

Nurseries must follow documented procedures for the production of grafted grapevines based on an analysis of risks using HACCP, NZS4360 Risk management or similar standard.

All aspects of the nursery operation must be audited against the GGS annually.

HOW DOES THE GGS LINK WITH SUSTAINABLE WINEGROWING NEW ZEALAND?

The Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand programme promotes viticultural and winemaking practices that protect the environment while efficiently and economically producing premium wine grapes and wine.

Certified GGS vines are an important part of the programme and Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand members are asked to commit that all future plantings are GGS certified.

HOW TO TELL IF VINES ARE CERTIFIED?

1. Check the Label it should say …

Certified to New Zealand Winegrowers Grafted Grapevine Standard, Version 3.0 - Schedule xx xxx

2. Look for the logo

GGS CERTIFIED
GRAFTED GRAPEVINE STANDARD

CHECK YOUR VINES ON DELIVERY

Your vines are certified to be premium healthy vines. However it is still important that you check your vines when they arrive to ensure they meet your standards.

If you don't think your vines are up to standard contact the nursery you purchased them from and let them know your concerns.

If you have serious concerns about the ongoing quality of vines being sold as GGS certified vines please contact biosecurity@nzwine.com

WHAT ARE SECOND GRADE VINES?

Second grade vines have been produced using the same procedures and standards as GGS certified vines throughout the growing season, however have generally failed to meet the physical specifications required by the GGS.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding the GGS please contact New Zealand Winegrowers at biosecurity@nzwine.com

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