



Establishing a Vine Spacing Trial of Wine Grapes

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Project Goals

- 1. Determine optimum spacing to promote vine balance and control vigor in wine grapes, in a cool maritime climate**

Background

- ✪ Most W.WA vineyards are planted with in row spacing of 3'- 6' 6-9' between rows using VSP training
- ✪ Vigor control is a problem on most sites
- ✪ In CA and Australia, wider plant spacing rather than closer spacing has been shown to be an effective means of vigor control and vine balance

Proposed Treatments

(no control, all rows 8' apart)

- 1. 4' spacing between plants**
- 2. 6' spacing between plants**
- 3. 8' spacing between plants**
- 4. 10' spacing between plants**

Plot Design

- 1. Replicated split plot**
- 2. Cv. Pinot Noir 777**
- 3. Rootstock Couderc 3309**
- 4. 4 Treatments x 3 replications**

Data collection

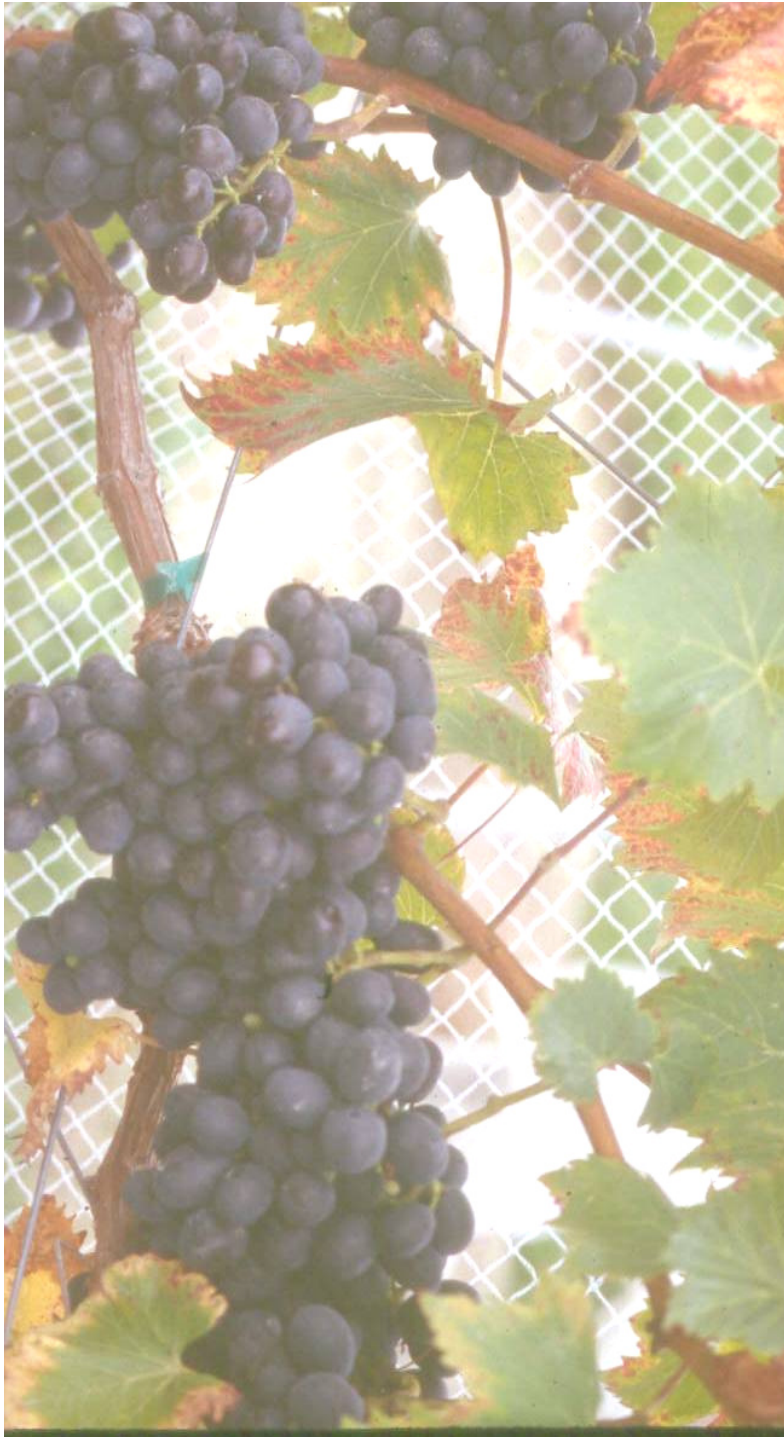
- 1. Vine shoot length**
- 2. Number of shoots**
- 3. Number of buds**
- 4. Trunk diameter**
- 5. Pruning biomass (fresh weight)**

Time Table

- 1. Spring 2008: vines trained to VSP**
- 2. Summer 2008 – Spring 2009: vine establishment (fill row space allotted) and maintenance**
- 3. Fall 2009 – Spring 2010: Data collection**
- 4. Results reported in winter of 2010**

Expected Outcomes

- ∞ Determine a more optimum plant spacing for most Puget Sound sites
- ∞ Reduced labor in canopy management when vines are in balance
- ∞ Improved fruit quality
- ∞ Publish results – newsletters, extension, journals, workshops and internet web site



Cooperators

- ☞ **Tom Thornton, Cloud Mountain Farm**
- ☞ **Brent Charnley, Lopez Island Vineyards & Winery**
- ☞ **Chuck Jackson, Eagle Haven Winery**
- ☞ **Karen Pierolo Accapello Winery and Vineyards**
- ☞ **Randy Bonaventura, Challenger Ridge Winery**



Photography:
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