

Planting Instructions for Dormant Benchgrafts and Rootings

Your dormant benchgrafts or rooted cuttings have been pre-graded and trimmed and are ready to plant without further handling. **Open the bags or plastic immediately upon receipt** for inspection of vines and to allow fresh air to exchange within the packing media. Do not allow media to dry prior to planting. **Keep bags or bins out of direct sunlight.**

1. All dormant vines must be warmed prior to planting. This is accomplished by removing bins from cold storage and placing them in an outdoor shaded area. From winter to mid-spring, warm vines for 10-14 days. From mid-spring to May 31, warm vines for 5-10 days. **Planting dormant vines after June 1 is not recommended.**

2. Dormant vines perform best when planted in moist soil. An irrigation may be necessary prior to planting if soil moisture is low.

3. Dig a hole 6 inches in diameter and 10 inches deep with spade or auger.

4. Insert rooting to bottom of hole. Fill hole with approximately 6 inches of moist, herbicide-free soil.

5. Raise vine so that 8 inches is above grade. Graft union of benchgrafted vines should be a minimum of 6 inches above final grade.

6. While holding proper level, tamp soil. Continue filling entire hole with moist, herbicide-free soil. Tamp again to remove voids.

7. Mound if planted after April 1 by piling moist loose soil on top of vine until covered by 2" of soil or cover with Sunridge Plant Protector. Remove mound or open Sunridge Plant Protector when shoots are 2" to 4" long.

8. On dormant benchgrafts: When shoot growth reaches 1/2-1 inch, the mounded soil should be carefully removed away from the vine. This operation should be performed on cool days and a Sunridge Plant Protector should be placed over vine immediately to protect new growth from sunlight. On rootings: It is not necessary to remove mounds.

9. Do not irrigate unless soil moisture below rooting zone is depleted. Irrigations should replenish moisture to 6 inches below root zone. Fertilization can be applied after green leaves appear.

NOTE: Do not over irrigate. We have seen more damage and delayed growth from over-irrigation than from under-irrigation. For optimal growing conditions, soil should be moist and never saturated. Remember, you are trying to develop a strong deep root system and frequent irrigations will tend to develop weak, shallow roots.

10. When shoots are 10-12 inches, they should be secured to the stake to protect the graft union from wind breakage. This is not necessary with non-grafted rootings.

NOTE: Failure to follow these instructions may void warranty.

