

Ensuring the quality of grapevine plant materials for the sustainability of the wine industry

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Healthy and productive vineyards are key to a sustainable wine industry. However, climate change and emerging new pests and diseases are making vineyard management more challenging in recent years. Furthermore, there is an emerging issue of nursery plant materials being a factor for poor vine performance in vineyards. Recent studies overseas showed some plants from grapevine nurseries tested positive to grapevine trunk disease (GTD) pathogens. The compromised health status of these plants may contribute to the GTD symptoms observed in vineyards, and threaten the sustainability of the grapevine industry. While the current standard for grapevine propagation materials in Australia has been established, testing for fungal pathogens that can potentially affect vine quality are not included in this standard. Good quality and disease-free planting materials will most likely withstand extreme vineyard conditions compared to poor quality plant materials, thus, a review in the current practices and quality management system in Australian nurseries is needed. This research aims to review the current standards for grapevine planting materials in Australia and investigate different factors that have the ability to comprise the health status of planting materials from grapevine nurseries. Since the vines become exposed to extreme conditions once established in vineyards, ensuring the quality of planting materials from nurseries provides the best opportunity for then ensuring their sustainability in vineyards.

References

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For additional information please contact:

Dr Regina Billones-Baaijens
National Wine & Grape Industry Centre
Charles Sturt University

Email: rbaaijens@csu.edu.au

<https://www.csu.edu.au/nwgic/about-us/our-people/profiles/research-staff/regina-billones-baaijens>

Ph +61 (0)2 6933 2157

A/Prof Sandra Savocchia
National Wine & Grape Industry Centre
Charles Sturt University

Email: ssavocchia@csu.edu.au

<https://www.csu.edu.au/nwgic/about-us/our-people/profiles/research-staff/sandra-savocchia>

Ph +61 (02)2 6933 4341