



2017 in the Vineyard JANUARY & FEBRUARY

The vines are sleeping, the sky is weeping, it's time to curl up by the fire and rest.

WRONG !

There are a lot of things to be doing in your vineyard this month and next:

PREPRUNE the Vines - if you have more than 1 acre of vines, then you ought to consider prepruning. Last year's growth is several feet long, it has entangled with itself and the support wires. The process of cutting each cane, breaking free the tendrils, pulling it off the wires and getting it on the ground is tedious and time consuming. Also, the visual clutter of all last year's growth makes it very hard to make good final pruning decisions. Preprune each cane to about 12" or 6-7 buds.

PREPARE for FALSE SPRING - Ramona weather is very often warm and sunny during January and February, possibly followed by some days of very cold weather. The warm days with abundant water cause early bud break, the subsequent cold nights can kill those buds. Usually each cane will break the upper two buds. Make sure you have two buds on every cane that can be thrown away if they die.

CLEAN UP CUTTINGS - once you've prepruned, get the cuttings out of the vine rows.



The cuttings are too fibrous to chop with your rotary mower, they will wrap around the blades. They gum up the works when you are trying to stay ahead of the weeds in March. Pick up the cuttings, dispose, burn or trash -- OR -- Use a flail-mower to chop up the cuttings in place so they decompose and enrich the soil.



REPAIR TRELLIS SYSTEM - Examine all end posts and line posts. Are they stable, not rotted or rusted? Are all wires intact and fastened to the posts? If you have to dig a hole to replace something, this is definitely the time of year to do it.

REPAIR DRIP IRRIGATION - Walk the lines, are there broken sections or connectors? Do it now before you start irrigation and flood a section.

CLEAN OWL BOXES - If your owl box was occupied last year, or the last couple of years, there is probably a couple of inches of 'who knows what' inside the box. Lower the box and clean it before nesting starts next month.

FERTILIZE - This is a great time of year to get fertilizer or compost onto the ground. The rain will wash it into the soil. Watch out for the really heavy storms which might wash it away rather than gently soaking into the ground.

WEED CONTROL - Not everyone chooses to do pre-emergent programs, but if you do; make sure you get it done before Feb 12th (as specified for grapes). It is best to spray just before at least 1/4 inch of rain. A tank mix of Goal, Surflan and Glyphos takes care of most weeds thru mid growing season. Many people choose not to do chemical weed control.

There !

That should keep you busy and out in the fields during the winter.