

## PILLARS OF SUSTAINABILITY



NEW ZEALAND WINE  
PURE DISCOVERY



### BIODIVERSITY

**The value of enhancing biodiversity in a vineyard isn't just social and environmental. It also offers clear economic advantages such as biological control of pests, diseases and weeds, and improving soil quality and stability—resulting in better crops without the ongoing expense of manual methods.**

At the other end of the biodiversity spectrum is a population of native yeast strains that are unique to New Zealand—they're providing some of our innovative winemakers with another means to demonstrate our wine's international reputation for distinctiveness.

Biological diversity is essential for health, vitality and stability. As far as possible, members should create and conserve an ecologically balanced vineyard environment with a diverse ecosystem of plants and animals.

Sustainable Winegrowing New Zealand recommends the development and implementation of conservation plans for the vineyard and winery surrounds for wine businesses to protect their local environment.

### INDUSTRY CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY INITIATIVES

Dedicated conservation and biodiversity initiatives run by members around New

Zealand have succeeded in raising awareness and enthusiasm for the wider benefits of conservation. These initiatives have included:

- Encouraging and conserving native hawks and falcons to drive away flocks of birds with an appetite for ripening grapes.
- Using parasitic wasps to control leaf roller caterpillar, instead of chemical insecticides.
- Employing sheep to graze around the vines to leaf pluck and mow the vineyard, saving on mowing and spraying costs.
- Planting natives around wineries and at the end of vineyard rows.
- Undertaking native forest planting schemes.
- Creating wildlife corridors.
- Reintroducing or strengthening populations of native species.
- Protecting and developing natural wetlands.

Members are also encouraged to participate in local community initiatives. Local and regional conservation projects that members have participated in recently include Canterbury's 'Greening Waipara' or Marlborough's 'Tui to Town' and 'Falcon Trust' projects.

### BIODIVERSITY PRACTICES IN VINEYARD AND WINERY SURROUNDS

Members should:

- Foster biodiversity as a substitute for chemical insecticides and herbicides, and to boost soil structure.
- Promote and maintain vineyard sward/cover crop. Sward provides nectar sources for beneficial insects, a habitat for fungal and bacterial biodiversity, and the soil organisms essential for nutrient uptake and healthy vines.

- Underplant vines with native groundcovers designed to suppress weeds.
- Undertake mowing in alternate rows to reduce the area of bare soil or mown grass between vine rows.
- Enhance habitats for natural enemies of pests and diseases in non-productive areas such as headlands and windbreaks. ☘

Central to our sustainability policy is a commitment to keep improving, as new research is undertaken and new technologies are developed. The New Zealand wine industry is actively involved in both of these areas, with an ongoing leadership role in research and development projects. Looking to the future, we will continue to protect the places that make our exceptional wines.

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