



SWNZ Vineyard Biosecurity Plans:

Guidance on virus testing and true-to-type verification of new grapevine planting material

This guidance document has been developed to provide clarity around the new SWNZ requirement that all new vines/grapevine planting material (including any cuttings and top-graft material sourced from another vineyard) are:

- certified to the New Zealand Winegrowers Grafted Grapevine Standard, OR;
- tested negative for grapevine leafroll associated virus-3 and certified true-to-type by DNA testing or a recognised ampelographer.

For clarity, if cuttings and top-graft material are sourced **from the same vineyard they are being planted/grafted into**, there is no need to undertake virus or true-to-type testing (although this would be recommended best practice to ensure new material is both healthy and correctly identified).

Testing for Grapevine leafroll-associated virus 3

Requiring that new planting and grafting material has tested negative for Grapevine leafroll-associated virus 3 will help to reduce the incidence of this costly virus across the New Zealand vineyard estate. While the Grafted Grapevine Standard (GGS) provides assurance that certified vines from nurseries are unlikely to be harbouring the virus, vines that are sourced from established vineyards or other places provide no such assurance and are likely contributing to the persistence of the virus in New Zealand vineyards.

The simplest way for growers to meet this requirement is to purchase GGS-certified grapevines from a nursery that participates in the standard. A current list of these nurseries can be found at nzwine.com/en/sustainability/biosecurity/grafted-grapevine-standard/.

Alternatively, growers can arrange for planting and grafting material to be tested by a laboratory. Laboratories which can undertake this testing are:

- **Hill Laboratories**
Ph: 0508 44 555 22
Email: mail@hill-labs.co.nz
- **Linnaeus Laboratory Gisborne**
Ph: 06 867 8512
Email: info@linnaeus.co.nz

Testing Protocol

Leaf or cane testing of all mother vines (established vines that cuttings or propagative material is to be taken from) must be undertaken **prior to the material being collected**. 100% of the mother vines that material is being taken from must be tested.

Composite testing may be undertaken (for example, all the vines in a bay can be combined into a single composite test).

If any of the mother vines test positive for grapevine leafroll-associated virus-3, do not collect cuttings/

propagate from the positive vines.

For advice or assistance with taking and sending samples for virus testing, contact your chosen laboratory and they will provide detailed instructions.

Audit Evidence

Acceptable audit evidence to show you have met the grapevine leafroll-associated virus 3 testing requirement includes:

- Order confirmation from a nursery producing GGS vines
- GGS labels on new vines
- Testing results sent from laboratory
- Correspondence with laboratory

Adequate risk mitigation strategy for virus testing requirements

SWNZ auditors will have discretion to determine if alternative risk mitigation practices are sufficient to meet this requirement, in consultation with NZW as required.

For example:

- A virus management plan is in place for the mother vines that is:
 - Robust and minimises likelihood that vines have been infected with leafroll-3 virus
 - Documented (plan can be shown to auditor on request)

This could include evidence such as:

- Vines are asymptomatic and healthy
- No past history of vine removal due to virus in the block
- No sign of the presence of virus vectors (mealybug) during regular monitoring



True-To-Type Verification

Requiring that new planting and grafting material is verified true-to-type by ampelography or DNA testing will help to ensure that varietal identification issues (and follow on impacts arising from these, such as wine mislabelling) are reduced across the industry. From 2025 all Viticultural Industry Nursery Association (VINA) nurseries will also be ensuring that all material propagated in their facilities, whether GGS-certified or not, has been verified true-to-type by ampelography or DNA testing.

The simplest way for growers to meet this true-to-type requirement is to purchase GGS-certified grapevines from a nursery that participates in the standard. A current list of these nurseries can be found at nzwine.com/en/sustainability/biosecurity/grafted-grapevine-standard/.

Alternatively, growers can arrange for material to be DNA tested, or assessed by a recognized ampelographer. Laboratories which can undertake DNA testing to varietal level are:

- **Bragato Research Institute**
Ph: 0800 272 4286 (choose option 4)
Email: vines@bri.co.nz

A list of recognized ampelographers is available at www.nzwine.com/members/sustainability/biosecurity/grafted-grapevine-standard/ggs/.

True-to-type Protocol

True-to-type verification of all mother vines (established vines that cuttings or propagative material is to be taken from) must be undertaken **prior to the material being collected**. 100% of the mother vines must be DNA tested or checked by a recognized ampelographer.

For advice or assistance with taking and sending samples for DNA testing, contact Bragato Research Institute and they will provide detailed instructions.

To arrange for an ampelographer to assess your vines, New Zealand Winegrowers recommends contacting one of the Viticultural Nursery Association nurseries, Bragato Research Institute, or Raquel Kallas (independent ampelographer):

- **Ormond Nurseries Ltd**
Ph: 03 577 6354
Email: office@ormondnurseries.co.nz
- **Riversun Nursery Ltd**
Ph: 0800 11 37 47
Email: info@riversun.co.nz
- **Stanmore Farm Nursery**
Ph: 06 364 3108
Email: grapes@stanmorefarm.co.nz

- **Vine Nursery New Zealand**
Ph: 027 940 2115
Email: info@vinenursery.co.nz
- **Bragato Research Institute**
Ph: 0800 272 4286 (choose option 4)
Email: vines@bri.co.nz
- **Raquel Kallas**
Ph: 027 289 9900
Email: raquel@naturalselection.co.nz

Audit Evidence

Acceptable audit evidence to show you have met the true-to-type requirement includes:

- Order confirmation from a nursery producing GGS vines
- GGS labels on new vines
- DNA testing results sent from Bragato Research Institute
- Ampelography results from a recognized ampelographer/correspondence from a recognized ampelographer confirming vine varieties

Adequate risk mitigation strategy for true-to-type requirements

SWNZ auditors will have discretion to determine if alternative risk mitigation practices are sufficient to meet this requirement, in consultation with NZW as required.

For example:

- Mother vines used are originally GGS vines (and there is evidence of this that can be provided)
- Other evidence is provided from the owner of the mother vines that vines are true-to-type

CONTACT:

If you need further advice or assistance with these requirements contact us at biosecurity@nzwine.com