

Western Australian Vine Improvement Association Annual Report 2005

by Chris Harding
Secretary WAVIA

WAVIA 2005 Activities

At the beginning of this reporting season WAVIA undertook to host a vine improvement industry forum to provide direction to WAVIA. The issues presented included the declining proportion of propagation material that WAVIA supplies to industry, issues with disease testing procedures, costs of maintaining the state foundation collection, and promotion of WAVIA. The challenging day resulted in WAVIA fundamentally maintaining its role of sourcing improved clones and varieties, maintaining disease testing, rationalizing the germplasm collection and improving the multiplication system.

Consolidation and improvement of the Western Australian Foundation Variety Collection block at the Manjimup Horticultural Research Institute has continued over the past twelve months. New varieties and clones continue to be added to the collection as a result of requests from industry, and the small Demonstration block of some of the varieties introduced to the state collection over the past two years is well established and able to provide more propagation material.

Annual virus testing of the Foundation Collection for LRV types 1 & 3, has become standard protocol in its management. Likewise, testing is carried out on WAVIA Source Blocks from which propagation material is still being ordered during the current industry downturn.

Following the Industry Forum convened in late 2004, WAVIA has now introduced a new pricing structure for cuttings supplied in 2006 from the WA state Foundation Collection and from the regional WAVIA Source Blocks.

A higher value has been put on the propagation material coming out of the state collection due to the high input costs and the limited supply of this early generation material. Minimum orders will also now be for only 10 cuttings, as opposed to the previous minimum of 100. The cost for cuttings coming from the source blocks will remain the same as previously for orders of 100-1500 cuttings, but will have a reduced price for orders of 1600 cuttings or more to encourage industry to utilise this improved clonal material.

WAVIA has recognised the urgent need in Western Australia for the introduction of the variety Pinot Gris and has now cleared mothervines of the variety through quarantine. Whilst the Pinot Gris has been in quarantine WAVIA has worked with the AgWA plant laboratories to develop a successful tissue culture multiplication program for this variety, and possibly others if demand warrants it.

The establishment of Registered Source Blocks on suitable, irrigated vineyards within appropriate regions for the particular variety remains a priority if WAVIA is to be able to provide larger volumes of cuttings for wider industry distribution.

An exciting opportunity now exists for any interested vignerons in WA to establish a source block planting of Pinot Gris clone D1V7. Approximately 5000 small Pinot Gris vines ex tissue culture will be made available as acclimatised green growing vines in punnets in October 2006.

The Western Australian Vine Improvement Assoc. (WAVIA) is calling for expressions of interest, so please contact your regional WAVIA association representative if you are interested in establishing a source block of Pinot Gris.

There are major benefits in growing a source block:

- First grower to have the variety
- First grower to produce fruit and/or wine from the variety
- Greater clonal complexity in wines
- Receive money for the future sales of cuttings taken from the source block (WAVIA will provide a source block agreement)

It is valuable for the future of the West Australian wine industry and WAVIA that any potentially important varieties to Western Australia can be supplied as demand arises. Therefore, WAVIA is also keen to know if any vigneron is interested in planting source block(s) of any of the following varieties.

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Clone</u>
Albarino	Galicia
Cabernet Sauvignon	LC9, LC10, LC14, LC84
Durif	H7V13
Lagrein	H9V9
Merlot	18
Roussanne	
Semillon	32
Shiraz	R6W V28P
Tempranillo	D8V12
Tannat	H9V3
Vermantino	H62.1LN
Viogner	HTK

There are additional exciting new varieties and clones which can be found listed in the WA Register of grape vine varieties on the AgWA website. If you have any suggestions of new varieties currently unavailable in Western Australia that you would be interested in growing, please inform your regional WAVIA representative.

The capacity of WAVIA to maintain its current role of bringing in and promoting new varieties and clones for Western Australia, to adopt new standards and improved protocols, and to continue to provide a beneficial service to the Wine, Table grape and Dried fruit industries is dependant upon enthusiastic support and involvement by industry members and financial patronage of the services provided by the association.

Cuttings Supplied in 2005

The following table (Table 1) provides a summary of the sales of cuttings made by WAVIA during the 2005 season.

Table 1: WAVIA vine sales 2005

<u>Variety</u>	<u>Clone</u>	<u>Allocation</u>	<u>Variety</u>	<u>Clone</u>	<u>Allocation</u>
<i>Freedom</i>		100	Malbec	C6V11	25
<i>K51-32</i>		100	Malvasia Bianca	F1V9	100
<i>Ramsey</i>		400	Mataro	R2V13	150
<i>Schwarzmann</i>		150	Merlot	D3V14	100
<i>110 Richter</i>		300	Merlot	18	0
<i>1103 Paulsen</i>		100	Meunier	H10V5	100
<i>140 Ruggeri</i>		100	Mondeuse	F3V15	50
<i>34 EM Foex</i>		100	Nebbiolo	CVT CN 230	25
<i>420A Millardet</i>		100	Petit Manseng	Merbein	10
<i>5BB Kobber</i>		200	Petit Verdot	G7V1	150
<i>5C Teleki</i>		100	Pinot Blanc	54	300
<i>99 Richter</i>		100	Pinot Gris	D1V7	0
		1850	Saperavi	I11V10	10
			Sauvignon Blanc	F14V9	2200
Albarino	Galicia	0	Sauvignon Blanc	F4V6	4000
Ansonica	WA5V6	50	Sauvignon Blanc	H5V10	5100
Arneis	CVTCN 15	25	Scheurebe	Merbein	50
Bastardo	E7V1	200	Sciacarello	UCD	200
Biancone	WA	300	Semillon	D10V12	300
Brachetto	H102	25	Semillon	3049	300
CabernetSauvignon	G9V3	100	Semillon	32	50
Dolcetto	CN69	10	Souzao	G1V4	100
Durif	H7V13	50	Tannat	H9V3	0
Fer	10-26A1	100	Tempranillo	Requena	100
Fiano	Merbein	25	Tinta Cao	UCD	100
Furmint	E2V11	100	Touriga	E6V12	100
Gamay	284	10	Traminer	C3V15	200
Gewurztraminer	INRA 47	200	Traminer	457	0
Harslevelu	LN-B	100	Vermantino	H62-1LN	250
Lagrein	H9V9	50	Viognier	HTK	50
Lambrusco	H9V12	50			15515

Order Forms

The WA Department of Agriculture has updated their website and has included a WAVIA page from which links are available to the Register of varieties held in the state Foundation Collection, to the new WAVIA Order Form for cuttings and to the WAVIA contacts list.

Go to the AgWA home page at www.agric.wa.gov.au and enter **WAVIA** in the search box then follow the link to our webpage.

WAVIA Order forms are also distributed with the Wine Industry Newsletter published by AgWA, and can be picked up from any Department of Agriculture office in WA, or contact your regional WAVIA representative. Orders must be received by 2.00pm 30 April.

The WAVIA committee wishes to thank Gavin Ford and Sue Wills of the AgWA Viticulture Project team for their strong support and valued input to the association, and also John Doust and Eric Wooten at the Manjimup Horticultural Research Institute for their continuing efforts in maintaining the Foundation collection to such a high standard.

For details of WA regional representatives contact Chris Harding (Secretary WAVIA) 08 9755 2030 or email: harding@netserv.net.au
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