



Converting to Organic Viticulture

Organic Farming Systems has a great deal of experience guiding existing vignerons to organic and sustainable systems. Here we outline some of the processes we go through in assisting farmers move to more biological systems.

Initially we monitor the current status of the soils and vines with a focus on organic processes, and determine a base line for the health of your vineyard. This allows us to monitor the development of the organic program in your vineyard in a measurable way.

We help you select the areas to be monitored.

Objectives

Whilst our overall goal is to build an organic system this needs to be done in a managed way to maximise your returns and grape quality, normally over 2-3 seasons. These objectives will need to be fine-tuned through discussions with you, however they are usually best introduced by achieving the following:

- Introducing natural plant nutrients and cycling of nutrients in soil
- Balancing soil nutrients to enhance the biological activity of soil and health of vines
- Ensuring the vines remain healthy and productive with balanced growth
- Reducing disease pressure by focussing on plant health and natural disease suppression.



Examples of organic vineyards from the Margaret River Region WA.

The Organic Program

Typical Activities for the first season are:

- Integrate organic farming techniques within current program
- Recommend a nutrient supply for the first season to maximise soil biological activity and address deficiencies where they occur.
- Monitor soil and vine health during season (late September, early December and Feb of the following season)
 - Petiole sap analysis for nutrients (N, P, K)
 - Soil health indicators – pH, buffer pH, oxidation reduction potential, soluble nitrogen (ammonium, nitrate), conductivity
 - Petiole sap brix levels
 - Plant tissue analysis at flowering.
- Provide a complete soil analysis and report of 2-3 locations in your vineyard and balance soil chemical make up in autumn based on this soil report.
- Introduce disease program
- Recommend a cover (inter row) crop program for winter 2002 based on vine and soil health objectives.
- Season review with you and develop a plan for the following season in autumn.

OFS Organic Programs and Inputs have been used by leading vineyards in the premier wine district of Margaret River for many years.

This information is of a general nature - seek specific advice for your situation.

Improve crop health with...



OFS Micro-plus

Soluble Biological Inoculant

- Enhance plant vitality
- Encourage more vigorous root systems
- Breaks down mineral and trace elements for the plant
- Promote plant vigour and strength
- Increase yield and bloom

Powerful OFS Micro-plus is for Viticulture, Greenhouse, Horticulture and Turf in an easy to use formulation

You can't afford to grow without it!

tel 08 9384 3789 fax 08 9384 3379
www.organicfarming.com.au





Improve soil and crop health with

BIOS Soil Testing

- Provides the basis for managing soil efficiently
- Designed to help build soil structure, address field limitations and meet nutritional needs for future crops
- Organic and/or sustainable recommendations provided depending on needs.

Improve soil and crop health with

BIOS Plant Tissue Testing

- A cost effective way of ensuring nutrients in the soil are being absorbed by the plant in appropriate levels
- Reports provide details on fertiliser and trace element requirements for optimal growth. Natural fertilisers are recommended over synthetic ones for their environmental benefits and long term sustainability.