



# Post Harvest Fertiliser Applications

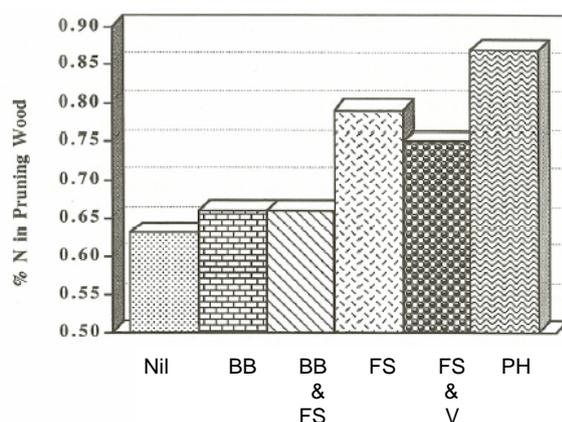
In many tree and vine crops there is a period of root activity that occurs after harvest and, depending on the nutritional status of your crop, it may be beneficial to apply nitrogen and/or phosphorus fertiliser after harvest. This ensures adequate reserves of these essential nutrients are established for the following season.

## Nitrogen

Trees and vines rely heavily on stored nitrogen reserves to fuel leaf and fruit production. These reserves are an especially important source of nitrogen for new growth in spring.

Maintaining nitrogen supply between harvest and leaf drop (in deciduous plants) allows trees and vines to store nitrogen in woody tissues over winter, for use the following spring and has been shown to improve vine cane nitrogen levels (see Figure 1) and leaf colour in the following spring.

Figure 1: Mean total nitrogen (%) in basal cane sections of Sauvignon Blanc, 1990-91



Treatment Code	Treatment (grams urea/vine/year)
Nil	Nil nitrogen
BB	200g at budburst
BB + FS	100g at budburst + 100g at fruit set
FS	200g at fruit set
FS + V	100g at fruit set + 100g at veraison
PH	200g at post-harvest

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

Benefits are not only in vines and can be found in a range of crops; for example over a five year period in mangos the application of a post-harvest nitrogen foliar spray significantly increased the number of fruit produced in the following harvest (Bright et al, 2001).

Post harvest nitrogen application may have some benefit, particularly if the crop has not received adequate nitrogen early in the season.

Issues that may affect nitrogen requirement include - variety, root-stock, vigour, yield, grape quality, soil type, viability of leaves, drought and cold soil.

As a guide use this season's petiole results, yield and vine vigour. Avoid nitrogen on vigorous vines and those that have re-shot or are re-shooting. The aim is to increase cane nutrient levels not to promote new growth that won't harden off before vines go into dormancy.

**OFS Organic Nitrogen** provides a slow release form of liquid N, reducing the chance of excessive vigour.

## Phosphorus

Apply phosphorus if the levels are low. Once again check your petiole and soil results.

For cover cropping, phosphorus is needed for good seed germination and establishment of the cover crop. The method of application for phosphorus is important. Band or fertigate the phosphorus for improved uptake in existing vineyards. Broadcast the phosphorus for cover crops.

**OFS Liquid Phosphorus** can be used via the irrigation and is also effective as a foliar spray.

A word of caution – late application (ie just prior to leaf drop) of fertilizer will be less efficient and increase the impact on the environment through leaching.

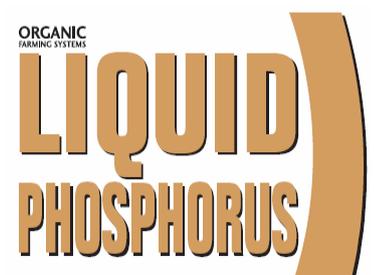
## References

Bright, McAlister and Renfree, Foliar Nitrogen nutrition trials in Mango 2001  
CRC Viticulture—VitiNotes 2006: Grapevine nutrition  
Goldspink and Frayne, The effect of nutrients on vine performance.  
Olsen, Sanchez and Righetti, Absorption of isotopically labelled nitrogen in hazelnut trees following ground and foliar application. International congress on hazelnut.

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**OFS Organic Nitrogen** provides a slow release form of liquid N, ensuring adequate reserves are established for the following season.



**Spraying OFS Liquid Phosphorus** post harvest ensures adequate reserves of this vital nutrient for the following season.