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## PLANTING AND CARE GUIDE: BARE ROOT VINES

Your dormant bare root grapevines are ready to plant in the field when you receive them. If they cannot be planted right away, keep them in the shipping box in a cool place, under 45F, but above freezing. Open the box to check and make sure that the roots never dry out. The vines can be kept in this way for 1-2 weeks. Never allow the roots to be exposed to the sun for long periods. Temperatures above 50F will cause the vines to begin budding out. If the vines do bud out in the box, it may be best to plant them on an overcast day if possible. The sun may burn off the pale primary growth, but secondary buds will grow and the vine will continue to grow normally.

1. Soak vines' roots in water prior to planting for 30 minutes to 12 hours.
2. You may trim the roots back to 8-10 inches, or slightly less, to allow for easier planting. If this is done, the top shoots must also be trimmed back for balance. The top shoots can be trimmed back to a single shoot with just a few buds.
3. Dig or auger a hole that is a minimum of 10 inches deep and 10 inches wide and spread the roots out laterally. Be sure not to curl the roots. Vines may also be set out by transplanter, setting the base of the original cutting at least 8-10 inches below the surface of the soil.
4. Backfill the hole with the native soil and gently tamp down. It is OK to cover some of the new shoots with soil.
5. If the soil is dry at the time of planting, water each vine with drip irrigation or hand water with at least a quart or two of water. Continue to irrigate if the soil is dry 8 inches down.
6. Stake each vine for support as it grows and to keep the new growth up off the ground. Grow tubes may be used, but be sure to remove them by mid August to allow the vine to harden off for winter.
7. Granular fertilizer can be applied before or after the vines are planted, liquid fertilizer can be applied until mid August at which time all fertilization should end to allow the vine time to harden off.
8. It is very important to eliminate any weeds from under the vine and keep the area completely free of weeds throughout the season. Weed control may be the most important factor in successful vine establishment. Annual or perennial cover crops are often established in the aisles, but are kept out of the under-vine area by mulch, cultivation or herbicide.
9. Pinch off any fruit clusters that form in the first two seasons. You may crop the vines in year three.
10. Feel free to contact us with any questions. Thank you.