



# All things infield

15 July 2009

**infield**

In-Field Ag Pty Ltd  
ABN 74 127 523 620

## 5 priorities this winter

It is this time of the year where wine grape growers turn their attention to various essential tasks in the vineyard.

**Pruning** is one of the most important activities in the vineyard at this time of the year. Two main pruning styles are undertaken in the cooler Adelaide Hills climate, spur and cane pruning. Although there are many variations to these two styles, the level of pruning is matched to the desired crop level at the end of the season, usually determined by contractual parameters.

Pruning is one the main outlays for growers so cost is critical. Machine pre-pruning assists in keeping costs down prior to spur pruning and can also be used to reduce cane length prior to cane pruning in very vigorous blocks.

**Trellis repairs** During mechanical harvesting, a percentage of posts may have been broken by the shaking of the machine harvester. The number of broken posts is highly dependent on the quality of the posts, soil moisture conditions during harvesting, the size of the canopy, and the harvester settings.

Continual maintenance of vineyard trellising ensures that the trellis does not deteriorate to the point where it is no longer able to support a fruit-laden canopy.

Post replacements are most easily carried out during winter following pruning when there is no canopy present to restrict machinery access. Any broken wires should also be repaired at the same time, to ensure the trellis is in perfect condition to start the new season.

**Weed Control** is best carried out during the winter months when they are actively growing, but still relatively small. The most common form of weed control in Adelaide Hills vineyards is the use of herbicides, however, the use of under-vine cultivation and mowing machinery is becoming increasingly common.

It is important to control weeds before they

increase their growth rate and have the opportunity to set seed during the warmer months. Weeds also take up water and nutrients which will impact on vine health if they have to compete with weeds during the growing season.

**Soil inputs and mulching** Winter is the perfect time to add condition to your soil by applying products such as lime, gypsum and other fertilisers. This allows the winter rainfall to incorporate the inputs into the soil before the growing season commences.

All soil inputs are based on a combination of soil analysis, plant tissue analysis and inspection of vine health during the growing season. There are also sections of your vineyard that will benefit from the application of mulch in the under-vine strip. This is particularly the case for rocky hill tops that need every bit of assistance in maintaining soil moisture during the dry summer months.

**Irrigation maintenance** There are important tasks that should be undertaken to ensure that irrigation systems are in proper working order at the start of summer.

Winter is the time to clean the filters in the pump shed and in the field. Applying cleaning agents such as acid or chlorine through the drip systems can also minimise blockage. An irrigation ride through will ensure that there will be no leaks prior to the cleaning process. Flow rates and block pressures should also be checked before the system is finally shut down.

Michael MacPherson  
Senior Viticulture Manager



**Managing Director**  
Tom Ayers

**General Manager**  
Graham Whenan

**Business Development**  
Charles Rosback

**Operations Manager**  
Sarah Paschke

**Senior Viticulture Manager**  
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**Viticulture Manager**  
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## PERSONAL PROFILE

Steve Fiebiger  
Irrigation Manager

Steve is a graduate of the University of Adelaide, studying both viticulture and agriculture.

Steve has over twenty years experience in the wine industry, previously managing vineyards in the Barossa Valley and Eden Valley and providing viticulture advice to growers in the Riverland.

An interest and involvement in water and environmental issues led to a period as land management advisor with the Natural Resource Management Board. With this background, Steve brings a broad range of practical experience to Infield's water management projects.



Photography by  
Rebecca Kammer,  
Mt Barker

## 2009 SOTY AWARDS

Infield has been nominated as a finalist in the WISA *Supplier of the Year* awards. Tom and Graham attended an interview on 25 May to put Infield's case to the panel of judges.

Infield would especially like to extend its thanks to several clients who were prepared to sponsor us for these awards. Their testimonials spoke accolades about the company and most surely helped to persuade the panel to consider Infield as a worthwhile contestant.

**"The Infield workforce carries out the work on all of Primo Estate's vineyards with a high degree of efficiency and professionalism".**

Daniel Zuzulo, Primo Estate Wines

**"Tom Ayers and his staff had a very professional approach to their new clients and made it much easier to achieve quality results".**

Charlie Downer, Murdoch Hill

**" I had quickly learnt that getting things right in the first place pays dividends for the life of the vineyard and (Infield) had become experts at doing just that".**

James Thorpe, Nova Vita Wines

Local vignerons and wine grape growers Larry Jacobs (Hahndorf Hill Winery) and Jeff Gower (Yandra Pty Ltd) were also among our referees.

Our thanks also for being loyal to the company over the past several years in allowing us to provide the services that have helped your businesses to prosper. A special thanks should also be extended to Dean Bolto for the information about the company's history included in our submission.

The final judging will be announced at the award ceremony on Friday, 31 July 2009.



## FOR OLIVE GROWERS

In keeping with demand, Infield now offers consultancy and contractor services across a broader agricultural spectrum, and includes a loyal core of olive growers as part of its regular clientele.

Infield's pest and disease control programs have been an essential focus in our services and involve regular inspections of your trees to identify and monitor the spread of the various insect pests and diseases to which olives are prone.

Our specialty is designing pest and disease prevention programs specific to your olive grove that will result in increased yield and improvements to plant health.

Monitoring plant health parameters via soil and tissue testing are also essential components of any horticultural production system. Infield provides collection and analytical services that will ensure that the correct soil and nutritional inputs are applied to your grove. Fertiliser, lime and gypsum spreading are part of this service.

The management of water resources is another key element in ensuring the on-going production of your olive grove.

As in viticulture, pruning is another essential element in maintaining plant health and structure to ensure ease of removing fruit at harvesting. A well maintained mid

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rows ensures ease of access for vehicles and machinery. Again, Infield offers a range of mid row management services that can be tailored to your site. These include slashing, weed spraying, soil aeration and cover cropping.

Infield can assist with water management in a number of ways:

- > Assessment of water requirements
- > Water quality testing
- > Irrigation system installation
- > Dam construction and refurbishment
- > Irrigation system maintenance and troubleshooting
- > Repairs to infrastructure
- > Supply of soil moisture and weather monitoring equipment
- > Weed control

When it comes to harvesting Infield has access to reliable teams of seasonal staff to hand pick your fruit, and will arrange transport and cold storage as required.



### Going places?

Volvo prime mover, low-loader trailer and experienced driver available.

tel. 8388 4948

## TOP WORKING YOUR VINEYARD

Infield has provided wine grape growers in the Adelaide Hills with vineyard redevelopment services for over five years.

As well as offering conventional vine removal methods, Infield also provides complete grafting or top-working services as another cost-effective way to change varieties. A successful top-working outcome will result in waiting one year less to achieve production.

The most important factors to ensure a successful outcome are:

- > Correct timing
- > Meticulous preparation
- > Access to virus free material
- > Experienced grafters
- > Frequent vine training and care after grafting

Infield also has the capacity to develop a costed business plan to underpin your decision to redevelop.

## GREETINGS FROM THAILAND



Lifting in a new filter, vineyard in the background



Tim Bartsch marking out the tank's position



The team from "Granmonte" including the owner Visoot Lohitnavy (second from left), Tim Bartsch and Nikki Lohitnavy (second from the right)

Since Tim's article in February, "Granmonte" has produced 2600 bottles of Rosé, which has proven to be a "huge success".

Nikki also reports that some of the lab facilities were still fairly primitive during the processing and testing period and that they still need to break through the red tape required to market and sell their final product.

## SPIN OR FACT: MY HUMBLE OPINION

*In producing a newsletter, there is a certain art in conveying information and care must be taken not to present opinion as fact.*

*I once attended a short course on the use of a popular software package where the presenter spent time extolling the virtues of the incumbent government, and pre-empting the policies of the party in opposition in the event that they formed the next government .*

*Not-with-standing the fact that the course was the less than ideal venue to expressing his political opinions, to my sensibilities the gentleman concerned also blurred the boundaries between fact and speculation.*

*The 2009 federal budget has come and gone and was a much-speculated about event with rumours of increased taxes and the like. If we listen to the rhetoric that followed we were led to believe that the capital borrowings needed to sustain the expenditure will have repercussions on generations yet to be born, and while generally speaking there is truth in this assumption, the same could be said about any decision taken in the world of economics .*

*Also presented as fact, was that we will have nothing to show for “it”, leaving a humble bookkeeper like myself wondering how I’d balance the ledger. This concept certainly gives the accounting doctrine on materiality a run for its money. So pause for thought, couldn’t this be just the kind of thinking that caused the financial woes in the first place?*

*Much was also said about the word “temporary”. For a truly balanced perspective on this word, especially given the very emotive context in which it was used, lets have a look at its opposite, the word “permanent”. Our office dictionary’s definition states, “lasting, or intended to last or function indefinitely”.*

One of the life’s noble truths:

*“Nothing is permanent in this wicked world - not even our troubles.”*

*Gautama Siddharta  
modified by Charlie Chaplin*

This definition is somewhat clearer.

*Ed*

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## Newsletter 20 July 2009



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Researched, written and compiled by Wanda Hopkins, except where otherwise acknowledged.

Outside contributions to this newsletter are welcome

If you would like to be added to our mailing list please email [wandah@infield.com.au](mailto:wandah@infield.com.au)

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