



Late planting of grafted vine plants: technical indications for a correct management of the pre-planting and post-planting phases.

The late plantation (from around 15th May onwards) is not recommended as the spring is coming to an end and with it the mild temperatures and the rainfalls useful for a rapid root development. Be aware that in the annual cycle of the vine has two peaks of radical development: spring and autumn. The late plantation slows down significantly the grafted vine by shortening the cycle and exposing it in inconvenient moments both to water crisis and to strong downy mildew attacks of the late summer, reducing the levels of lignification and consequently the endurance to winter rigor. With attentive care and sagacity, however, good rooting and development can be achieved if the plantation is made by mid-June. In following please find the instructions on how to operate correctly in order to obtain satisfactory results.

TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL INDICATIONS FOR THE LATE PLANTING OF GRAFTED VINE PLANTS

Before planting the plants, the grafted vines must be rehydrated in water by total immersion for at least 24/36 hours and only in following the roots can be shortened, leaving however a generous length of at least 10 cm.

Avoid exposing the roots to the sun as the consequent dehydration of the same, even more so at high temperatures, could be fatal for the plants.

The plants must be planted at a depth of at least 20 cm and the roots must be placed out radially in the planting hole of the right diameter.

Should the planting be done by machine and in heavy soils, it is necessary to immediately try to make the soil of the cuts, made by the plough of the transplanting machine, adhere to the root system. This operation can be carried out by treading the sides of the row close to the plant with a narrow-wheeled tractor, or by compacting the soil near the same with a handle.

Once the grafted vines have been planted, it is mandatory to proceed with abundant irrigation, possibly by broadcast sprinkling with volumes of water that distribute no less than 40 mm on the ground. If localised irrigation is chosen, to facilitate a rapid and homogeneous vegetative restart, each plant must receive 6/8 litres of water and this operation must be repeated after 3/4 days from the first irrigation and continue until the bud-bursting is completed.

As soon as there is vegetative restart and the grafted vines have shoots of 5-8 cm, anti-parasite treatments against downy mildew, powdery mildew and harmful insects (above all leafhoppers) must be carried out in order to guarantee an adequate leaf function, which is of crucial importance to achieve the appropriate level of lignification of the shoots to become vine stocks. Properly lignified vine stocks guarantee the plant to overcome cold winters.

If the above indicated rules are not respected completely, there is the possibility of failed rooting during the summer and unexpected deaths during the winter following the planting, which cannot be blamed on the material supplied.